The Gentle Craft. 9

A DISCOURSE

Containing many matters of Delight, very pleasant to be read:

Shewing what famous men have been SHOOMAKERS in time past in this Land, with their worthy deeds and great Hospitality.

Declaring the cause why it is called the GENTLE CRAFT: and also how the Proverbe first grew;

A Shoomakers Son is a Prince born. T. D.

With gentlenesse judge you,
At nothing here grudge you;
The merry Shoomakers delight in good sport.
What here is presented,
Be therewith contented;
And as you doe like it, so give your report.

Haud curo invidiam.

LONDON.
[illegible] Robert Bird[illegible]

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272

The Gentle Craft.

A DISCOURSE

BRITISH MUSEUM

LONDON.

To all the good Yeomen of the GENTLE CRAFT.

YOu that the gentle craft profeſſe, liſt to my words both more and leſſe:
And I ſhall tel you many things, of worthy and renowned Kings,
And diuers Lords and Knights alſo, that were ſhoomakers long ago,
Some of them in their diſtreſſe, delighted in this buſineſſe, (trade;
And ſome, for whō great wait was laid, did ſave their lives by this ſame
Other ſome, in ſport and game, delighted much to learne the ſame,
No other Trade in all the Land, they thought ſo fit unto their hand,
For evermore they ſtill did find, that ſhoomakers bore a gallant mind:
Men they were of high conceit, the which wrought many a merry feat,
Stout of courage were they ſtill, and in their weapons had great ſkill,
Trauellers by ſea and land, each Country guiſe to underſtand.
Wrong they wrought not any man, with reaſon all things did they ſcan;
Good houſes kept they evermore, releeving both the ſicke and poore.
In law no mony would they ſpend, their quarrels friendly would they end;
No malice did they beare to any, but ſhew'd great favour unto many;
Offences ſoone they would forgive, they would not in contention liue;
Thus in joy they ſpent their daies, with pleaſant ſongs and roundelaies,
And God did bleſſe them with content: ſufficient for them he ſent;
And never yet did any know, a ſhoomaker a begging goe:
Kind are they one to another, uſing each ſtranger as his brother.
Thus liv'd ſhoomakers of old, as ancient writers have it told:
And thus ſhoomakers ſtill would be, ſo fame from them ſhall never flee.

To all courteous Readers, health.

HOw Saint *Hugh* was ſon unto the renowned King of *Powis*, a noble Brittaine borne, who in the prime of his yeares loved the faire Virgin *Winifred*, who was the only daughter of *Donwallo*, which was the laſt King that ever raigned in *Tegina*, which is now called Flint-ſhire. But ſhe refuſing all offers of love, was onely pleaſed with a religious life. Her father was ſent to *Rome*, & died, whoſe Lady left her life long before. This Virgin therefore forſooke her fathers Princely Palace in *Pont Verry*, & made her whole abiding in the moſt ſweet pleaſant valley of *Sichnaunt*, and lived there ſolitarily, and careleſſe of all company or comfort. It chanced that in Summers heate, this faire Virgin being greatly diſtreſſed for lack of drink, and not knowing where to get any, there ſprang up ſuddenly a Chriſtall ſtreame of moſt ſweet and pleaſant water out of the hard ground, whereof this Virgin did daily drinke: unto the which God himſelfe gave ſo great a vertue, that many people having beene waſhed therein, were healed of divers and ſundry infirmities wherewith they were borne. Moreover, round about this Well, where this Virgin did uſe to walke, did grow a kinde of Moſſe, which is of a moſt ſweet ſavour, and the colour thereof is as freſh in Winter as in Summer; ſo that lying thereon, you would ſuppoſe your ſelfe to be on a bed of Downe perfumed with moſt precious odours. And what of all this? Marry read the booke and you ſhall know; but read nothing except you read all. And why ſo? Becauſe the begining ſhewes not the middle, and the middle ſhewes not the latter end.

And ſo farewell.

The pleasant History of S. HUGH; and first of all his most constant love to the faire Virgin WINIFRED.

CVnquering and most imperious Loue, hauing seized on the heart of young sir Hugh, al his wits were set on worke, how for to compasse the loue of the faire Virgin Winifred, whose disdain was the chiefe cause of his care, hauing receiued many infinite sorrows for her sake: but as a streame of water being stopt, ouerfloweth the bank; so smothered desire doth burst out in to a great flame of fire, which made this male-contented Louer to seek some meanes to appease the strife of his contentious thoughts, whereupon he began to incourage himselfe: Mush Hugh, let not a few froward words of a woman dismay thee; for they loue to be intreated, and fight to be woed, though they would make the world beleeue otherwise; for their denyals proceed more of nicenesse than waggardinesse, refusing that they would feinest haue. What if sometimes VVinifred frown on thee, yet her fauours may exceed her frowardnesse. The Sunne is sometimes ouercast with clouds, so that his brightnesse is not seene. In wars the fairer the fight is, the greater is the glory of the victory; and the harder a woman is to be won, the sweeter is her loue when it is obtained: wherefore Ile once againe try my fortune, and see what successe my suite shall find. On this resolution sir Hugh returned to VVinifred, greeting her thus: Now faire Lady, hauing slept away the remembrance of your sharpe answers; I come again in a new conceit, to reuiue an old suite, and to see if the change of the day will yeeld a change of dolours. Truely Sir Hugh (quoth she) if with the change of the day you haue changed your opinion: your dolour will be driuen away well enough: but as touching your suite it shall be needlesse to repeate it, because I am not willing to preferre it.

Stay there (quoth sir Hugh) I will preferre it, so that you will accept it. Now quoth she, I will accept it, if you will preferre it.

in sending it back to the place from whence it proceeded, and I would to God I could send you away as soone as your lute. Why then belike I am not welcome, said sir Hugh. Yes quoth she, as welcome to me, as a storme to a distressed Mariner: I muse greatly that reason will not rule you, nor words win you from your wilfulnesse: if you were as weary to wooe as I am weary to heare you, I am perswaded that long since you would have ceased your vaine sute. You thinke by your perswasions to turn my opinion; but as well you may thinke that you may quench fire with oyle: therefore I pray you good sir Hugh, be not so tedious vnto me, nor troublesome to your selfe.

Come, come, quoth he, all this will not serue your turn, ponder with thy selfe Winifred that thou art faire, O that thou wert as favourable; thy beauty hath bound me to be thy seruant, and never to cease till I see another obtaine thee, or my selfe be possessed of my hearts content. Thou art a Kings daughter, and I a princes sonne, staine not the glory of true Nobility with the foule sin of obstinacy, but be thou as kind as thou art courtly, and gentle as thou art noble, and then shall our strife soone end.

Winifred perceiuing that the further off she was to grant loue, the more eager he was to desire it, thwarted him off thus: Sir, although your ouerhastinesse driue me into the greater doubtfulnes, yet let me intreat you, if you loue me, to giue me one months respite to consider on this matter, and it may be that vpon my better deliberation it shall be pleasing vnto you, and not at all discontent me.

Faire Loue quoth he far be it from my heart to deny so kind a request; I am content to stay a month from thy sight, were it two or three, vpon condition that thou wouldest then grant me thy good will: three months, although it be very long, yet it will come at last, and I could be content for that time to be dead for thy sake, insomuch that my life might be renewed by thy loue.

Nay (quoth Winifred) stay three months and stay for euer: by this a Maid may see how ready men are vpon a light occasion to take long dates, whose loues are like a Ferne bush, soone set on fire, and soone consumed, and seeing it is so, in faith sir Hugh, I doe meane to try you better before I trust you.

Pardon me faire Winifred, said sir Hugh, if my tongue doe outslip my wit: in truth I speake but to please thee, though to displease my selfe: but I pray thee, let it not be three houres, nor three quarters of an houre, if thou wilt.

Nay, nay (quoth she) your first word shall stand: after three months come to me againe, and then you shall know my mind to

the full, and so good sir Hugh be gone: but if I doe euer hear from thee, or see thee betwixt this time and the time prefixed, I will for euer herafter blot thy name out of my booke of Remembrances, and neuer yeild thee that courtisie which thou at this time so earnestly intreatest for.

Sir Hugh vpon these words departed betwixt hope and dread, much like to a man committing a trespasse, that stayed for the sentence of life or death.

O vnhappy man, quoth he, how hath my ouer-flippery tongue lengthened the time of my sorrow? she of her selfe most courteously requested of me but one months stay, and I most willingly and vndiscreetly added thereto eight weeks more of misery; much like the Hind, that hauing a knife giuen him to paire his nailes, did there with murder himselfe.

Now I could wish that the Sun had Eagles wings, swiftly to fly through the faire firmament, and finish six dayes in one dayes time. With that he began to count the dayes and houres that were in three months, falling (in a manner) to dispaire with himselfe when he found them so many in number: and therewithall melancholily and sadly he went to his Fathers house, where his brother Griffith found by his countenance the perfect map of a pensiue louer: whereupon he said vnto him.

Why, how now brother? hath VVinifreds faire beauty so greatly wounded you, as you cannot speake a merry word to your friends, but sit in a corner, as if you were tongueless like a Stock? tush brother, women are like shaddowes, for the more a man followes them, the faster they run away: but let a man turn his course, and then they will presently follow him. What, man? pluck vp a good heart: for there are more women now, than liued in the time of our old father Adam.

O, said Hugh, were there ten thousand times more than there are now, what were that to me, if VVinifred be vnkinde? yet is she the oyle that still maintaines the lampe of my light, and without her there is nothing comfortable to my sight.

Then (replied Griffith) you are as much troubled in loue, as a Goat in an ague, and as blind as a Flie in October, that will stand still while a man cuts off his head. Come, goe a hunting with me, that will driue away your ouerfond conceits, and you shall see that these three months will come vpon you as a quarter day vpon a pure man that hath neuer a penney ready towards the payment of his rent.

Chap. II.

How beautifull *Winifred* being overmuch superstitious, forsooke her fathers wealth, and lived poorely by a springing fountaine, from whence no man could get her to goe; which Spring to this day is called *Winifreds* Well.

WInifred, who had but of late yeres with her owne father receiued the Christian Faith, became so superstitious, that she thought the wealth of the world so euer would haue been an heauy burthen for her soule, and haue drawne her mind from the loue of her Maker; wherefore forsaking all manner of earthly pomp, she liued a long time very poorely, hard by the side of a most pleasant springing well; from which place neither her friends by intreaty, nor her foes by violence could bring her; which Sir Hugh hearing, he went thither immediately after vnto her, which was the time limited by them both, and finding her mind altogether altered, he wondred not a little what she meant. And when he approached neare vnto the place where she sate, al suted in simple attire, he saluted her with these words.

All health to faire VVinifred: I trust (my Deare) that now the Destinies haue yelded a conuenient opportunity for me to finish my long begun suite, with the end of my former sorrowes. Long and tedious hath the winter of my woes beene, which with nipping care hath blasted the beauty of my youthfull delight, which is like neuer againe to flourish, except the bright Sun-shine of thy fauour doe renew the same: therefore (faire Loue) remember thy promise made vnto me, and put me no more off with vnpleasing delayes.

She (which all this while sate solemnly reading in her booke) lent little eare vnto his words; which he perceiuing, pluckt her by the arme saying: Wherefore answereth not my faire Loue, to her dearest perplexed friend?

What would you haue, quoth she? can I neuer be quiet for you? is there no corner of content in this world to be found?

Yes VVinifred, said he, content dwels here, or no where; content me, and I will content thee. If my content may be thy content, then read this booke, and there rests content, said Winifred; and if thou refuse this, then think not to find content on earth.

Sir Hugh replied, What, is this all the reward I shall haue for obeying your heart-cutting commandement. Haue I thus long honed, to find no better hap? You wot wel that it is now three long

months since these eyes tooke comfort of thy beauty, and since that time that my bleeding heart hath receiued ioy in thy great gentlenesse.

I haue forgot you quite said she; what three months is that you speak of, for my part I assure you, that it is as far out of my mind as you are from the mount of Calvary.

Faire VVinifred (quoth he) haue you forgotten me, & therewithall my loue which was so effectually grounded vpon your good liking? you told me, that now I should receiue an answer to my content.

O Sir (quoth she) you haue stayed ouer long, and your words are in my hearing as vnprofitable as snow in harueſt: my loue is fled to heauen, from whence no earthly man can fetch it, and therefore build not on vaine hope, nor doe thou deceiue thy selfe by following an vnprofitable suite: if euer I loue earthly man, it shall be thee, insomuch as thou hast deserued an earthly Ladies loue; but my loue is setled for euer, both in this world, and in the world to come: and this I most earnestly intreat thee to take for a finall answer.

With that Sir Hugh turning his head aside, wept most bitterly, and in going away, he glanced his eye still back again after his Loue, saying to himselfe: O vnconstant women, wauering and vncertaine, how many sorrowes are fond men drawne into by your wily inticements? who are also swallowed vp in the gaping gulfe of care, whilst they listen after the heart-liking sound of your inchanting voices. O VVinifred, full little did I thinke that so hard a heart could haue bin throwned vnder so sweet and louing a countenance: but seeing that my good will is thus vnkindly requited, I will altogether abhorre the sight of women, and I will seeke the world throughout, but I will find out some blessed plot, where no kind of such corrupt cattell doe breed.

Hereupon all in a hot hasty humour he made preparation for to go beyond the Seas, suiting himselfe after the nature of a melancholly man; and arriuing in France, he tooke his iourney towards Paris, which City (at that time) was wel replenished with many goodly faire women, as wel as Britaine, though to his thinking nothing so louely, but neuertheleſſe what they wanted in beauty, they had in brauery: which when sir Hugh saw, he suddenly departed from that place, counting it the most pernicious place in the whole Country; and from thence he went into Italy, where he found such stately Dames, and louely Ladies, whom nature had adorned with al perfection of outward beauty, whose sight put him again in remembrance of his faire loue, which like freth fuell newly augmented the flame of his burning desire: O

(said he) how vnhappy am I to be haunted by these heart-tormenting fiends, bewitching the eyes of simple men with Angel-like faces, and like enchanting Circes, bringing them to a Labyrinth of continuall woes.

O VVinifred, thy pœuishnesse hath bred my dangers, & done thy selfe no good at all. Thou sittest wéping by a Christall streame, where is no néed of water, while I wander vp and down, séeking to forget thee; thou neuer remembrest me, hauing drawn the fountain of mine eies dry through thy discourteous disdain. Might I neuer sée any of thy sexe, my heart would be more at quiet, but euery place where I come puts me in mind of thy perfections, & therewithall renewes my paine: but I will from hence as soone as possible I can, though not so soone as I would for feare lest these sweet serpents should sting me to death with delight.

Hereupon he pased on so far, that at length he came to a City situated in the Sea, and compassed with the wilde Ocean. Here (quoth sir Hugh) is a fit place for melancholy men; where it is supposed no women dos liue, insomuch that their delicate bodies cánot abide the salt sauor of the mounting waues: if it be so, there will I make my residence, counting it the most blessed place vnder heauen. But he was no sooner set on land, but he beheld whole troopes of louely Ladies, passing vp and downe in most sumptuous attire, framing their gestures answerable to their beauties and comly personages.

Nay now I sée (quoth sir Hugh) that the whole world is infected with these deceiuing Syrens, & therefore in vain it is for me to séek for that I shall neuer find; and therwithall sought for some house wherein he might hide himselfe from them. But by that time he was set to supper, comes a crue of courtlike dames richly attired, and with wanton eies & pleasant speech they boldly sate down by him; & perceiuing him to be a stranger, they were not strange to allure him to their delight: wherefore while he sate at meate, they yelded him such mirth as their best skill could afford; and stretching their nimble fingers, playing on their sweet sounding instruments, they sang this ensuing song, with such cleare & quauering voices, as had bin sufficient to allure chast-hearted Xenocrates vnto folly: and stil as they did sing, sir Hugh answered in the last line, insomuch as it séemed to be a dialogue betwéen them; and in this manner following, the women began their song.

The Curtizans song of Venice.

Ladies. WElcome to *Venice*, gentle courteous Knight,
Cast off fond care, and entertaine content.

If any here be gracious in thy sight,
Doe but request, and she shall soone consent:
Loves wings are swift, then be not thou so slow;
Hugh. Oh that faire *Winifred* would once say so.
Ladies. Within my lap lay downe thy comely head,
And let me stroke those golden locks of thine,
Looke on the teares that for thy sake I shed,
And be thou Lord of any thing is mine,
One gentle looke upon thy Love bestow.
Hugh. Oh that faire *Winifred* would once say so.
Ladies. Embrace with joy thy Lady in thine armes,
And with all pleasures passe to thy delight:
If thou doest thinke the light will worke our harmes,
Come, come to bed, and welcome all the night;
There shalt thou find, what lovers ought to know.
Hugh. Oh that faire *Winifred* would once say so.
Ladies. Give me those pearles as pledges of thy love,
And with those pearles the favour of thy heart:
Doe not from me thy sugred breath remove,
That double comfort gives to every part:
Nay stay sir Knight, from hence thou shalt not goe.
Hugh. Oh that faire *Winifred* would once say so.

When sir Hugh had heard this song, and therwithall noted their wanton gestures, he began to grow suspitious of their proffers, and thinking in himself that either they thought his destruction, as the Sirens did to Vlysses; or that they intended to make a prey of his purse, as Lais did of her louers: and therefore supposing some adder to lye lurking vnder the faire flowers of their proffered pleasures, he determined the next morning after (with speed) to depart from the City. So when he had with good discretion auoided their company, while he lay tormented with restlesse thoughts on his still tossed bed, began thus to meditate.

Now I well see mine owne vanity, that is as ill pleased with womens fauours as their frownes; how often haue I with heart sighing sorrow complained of womens vnkindnes, making large inuectiues against their discourtesies: and yet here where I find women as kind as they are faire, & courteous as they are comely, I run into a wood of doubts, and so suspitious of their faire proffers, as I was earnest to win Vvinifred fauour: it may be (quoth he), that it is the nature of this gentle soyle to breed as kinde creatures as the Country of Brittaine breeds coy Dames.

Undoubtedly, had my loue first taken life in this kind and curteous Climate, shee would haue beene as kinde as they. If I mis-iudge not of their gentlenesse, because I haue alwaies been inured to scornfulnesse; me thinkes they are too faire to be harlots, and too bold to be honest; but as they haue no cause to hate me that neuer hurt them, so haue they little cause to loue me, being a far stranger borne, to them a man altogether vnknowne.

But it may be that this time of the yeare is onely vnfortunate for louers; as it is certainly knowne to all men that euery season of the yeare breeds a sundry commodity; for Roses flourish in June, and Gillyflowers in August, and neither of them both doe so in the cold winter. Such as seeke for fruit on the saplesse trees in the month of January, lose their labours as well as their longing: then why should I couet to gather fruits of loue, when I see that loue is not yet ripe? Now let me obserue the season that yeelds the sweetest comfort to loue-sicke persons, and so I may reape the ioyfull fruits of hearts content: I will therefore return to my former Loue, hoping now to find her as friendly, as at my departure she was froward: I will once againe intreat her, and speak her exceeding faire; for with many drops the hardest stone is pierc'd; so also with many importunate intreaties a flinty heart may be moued to some remorse. I take no pleasure at all in any place, but onely in her presence, with the which she continually graceth a running streame; far be it from her mind, to kisse her owne shaddow in the chrystall spring, and to be in loue with her own similitude; for so she might be spoiled as Narcissus was: for it is commonly seene, that sudden danger follows fond opinions: so with this and the like thoughts he droue out the night, till the suns bright eie began to peepe at his chamber window, at which time dressing himself, he went to the water side, where he found a ship ready to transport rich merchandize into the Westerne Ilands, in the which sir Hugh became a passenger. But when they were put off to sea, there arose so sudden a storme, and of long continuance, that no man looked for life, but expected euery moment present death, so that the Mariners quite forsooke the tackle, and the Master the helme, committing themselues to God, and their ship to the mercy of the swelling seas, by whose furious waues they were sometime tossed vp towards heauen, anon thrown down to the deepe of hel: in which extremity sir Hugh made this lamentation: O vnhappy man, how eagerly doth mischance pursue me at my heeles; for betwixt my Loue on the land, and danger of life on the sea, it hath made me the wretchedst man breathing on earth.

Here

Here we may ſée that miſeries haue power ouer men, and not men our miſeries. Now muſt I dye far from my friends, and be drenched in the deep, where my body muſt ſeed the fiſhes that ſwim in the rich bottome of the Sea. Therefore faire Winifred, the chiefe ground of my griefs, here will I ſacrifice my laſt teares vnto thee, and powre forth my complaints.

Oh how happy ſhould I count my ſelfe, if thoſe fiſhes which ſhall liue on my bodies food, might be meat for my Loue! it grieueth me much to think that my poore bleeding heart, wherein thy picture is ingrauen, ſhould be rent in peeces in ſuch greedy ſort; but thrice accurſed be that fiſh, that firſt fetteth his nimble teeth thereon, except he ſwim therewith vnto my Loue, and ſo deliuer it as a preſent token from me.

Had my troubled ſtarres allotted me to leaue my life in the pleaſant valley of Sichnant, then no doubt but my Loue with her faire hands would haue cloſed vp my dying eyes, and perhaps would haue rung a peale of ſorrowfull ſighes for my ſake.

By this time was the weather-beaten Barke driuen vpon the ſhore of Sicilie, where the men had ſafety of their liues, although with loſſe of their ſhip, and ſpoyle of their goods: but they had no ſooner ſhaken of their dropping wet garments on the ſhore, but that they were aſſaulted by a ſort of monſtrous men that had but one eye a piece, and that placed in the midſt of their foreheads, with whom the tempeſt-beaten Souldiers had a fierce fight, in which many of them were ſlaine. and diuers of them fled away to ſaue themſelues; ſo that in the end Sir Hugh was left alone to Fortune in a double fray: and hauing at laſt quite ouercome all his aduerſaries, he went his way, and ſo paſſing vp the country in dark night, in the end he loſt his way, and was ſo far entred into the dark wildernelle, that he could not deuiſe with himſelfe which way he ſhould take to get out, where he was ſo cruelly affrighted with the dreadfull cry of fierce Lyons, Beares, and wilde Bulls, and many thouſand more of other dangerous and cruell rauenous beaſts, which with greedy mouths ranged all about for their prey: in which diſtreſſe Sir Hugh got him vp to the top of a tree, and being there, brake out into this paſſion.

O Lord (quoth he) haſt thou preſerued me from the great perill and danger of the Sea, and deliuered mee out of the cruell hands of monſtrous men, and now ſuffereſt thou me to be deuoured of wilde beaſts? Alas, that my foule ſins ſhould bring ſo many ſundry ſorrowes on my head.

But for all this may I thanke vnkind Winifred, whose disdaine hath brought my destruction. Woe worth the time that euer my eyes beheld her bewitching beauty. But hereby we may see that the path is smoth that leadeth to danger. But why blame I the blamelesse Lady? Alas, full little did she know of my desperate courses in trauell. But such is the fury that haunts franticke Louers, that neuer feare danger vntill it fall, and light vpon their owne heads.

But by that time that the day began to appear, he perceiued an huge Elephant with stiffe ioynts stalking towards him, & presently after came a fiery-tongue Dragon, which suddenly assaulted the peacefull Elephant, in whose subtile encounter the wrathfull Dragon with his long wringing taile did so shackle the hinder feet of the Elephant together, that like a prisoner fast fettered in irons, he could not stir a foot for his life: what time the furious Dragon neuer left till he had thrust his slender head into the Elephants long hooked nose, out of which he neuer once drew it, vntil by sucking the Elephants blood, he had made him so feeble and so weake, that he could stand no longer vpon his feet: at which time the fainting Elephant with a grieuous cry, fell down dead vpon the Dragon: so with the fall of his weighty body, burst the Dragon in peeces, and so killed him; whereby their bloods being mingled together, it stain'd al the ground where they both lay, changing the green grasse into a rich scarlet colour.

This strange sight betwixt these two beasts, caused good Sir Hugh to iudge that nature had planted betwixt them a deadly hatred, the fire whereof could not be quenched, but by shedding of both their hearts blood. Now when sir Hugh saw that grim death had ended their quarrell, & perceiuing no danger neare, he came down from the tree, and sought to find out some inhabited town; but being intangled in the woods, like the Centaure in his Labyrinth, he could by no meanes get out, but wandred in vnknown passages, leading him to many perils.

At last another Elephant met him, who according to his kind nature neuer left him til he had conducted him out of all danger, and brought him out of the Wildernesse into the way againe; whereby sir Hugh at the length came in sight of a Port-towne, where in foure days after he imbarked himselfe in a ship bound for Britaine, and at last obtained the sight of his native Country, where he arriued in safety, though in very poore sort, comming on shoare at a place called Harwich. where for want of money he greatly lamented, and made much moane. But meeting with a merry Journey-man Shoomaker dwelling in that towne, and

after

after some conference had together, they both agréed to trauell in the Country, where we will leaue them, and speake of Winifred, and of her great troubles and calamities.

CHAP. II.

How faire *Winifred* was imprisoned, and condemned to dye for her Religion: and how sir *Hugh* became a Shoomaker, and afterward came to suffer death with his Loue: shewing also how the Shoomakers tooles came to be called Saint *Hughes* bones, and the trade of Shoomaking, *The Gentle Craft*.

AFter that the Doctrine of Christ was made knowne in Britaine, and that the worship of heathen Idols was forbidden, yet many troubles did the Christians endure by the outragious blood-thirstinesse of diuers lewdish Tyrants, that by the way of inuasion set footing in this Land, as it fell out in the dayes of Diocletian, that with bloody minds persecuted such as would not yéeld to the Pagan Law: amongst which the Virgin Winifred was one, who for that she continued constant in faith, was long imprisoned. During which time, Sir Hugh wrought in a Shoomakers shop, hauing learned that trade through the courteous directions of a kind Journeyman, where he remained the space of one whole yeare, in which time he had gotten himselfe good apparell, and euery thing comely and decent. Notwithstanding though he were now contented to forget his birth, yet could hee not forget the beauty of his Loue, who although shee had vtterly forsaken him, yet could he not alter his affection from her, because indéed affections alter not like a pale-faced coward. The wildest Bull (quoth he) is tamed being tyed to a Fig-trée; and the coyest Dame (in time) may yéeld like the stone Charchædonis, which sparkles like fire, and yet melts at the touch of soft Wax. Though Roses haue prickles, yet they are gathered; and though women séeme froward, yet will they shew themselues kinde and friendly. Neither is there any wax so hard, but by often tempering, is made apt to receiue an impression: Admit she hath heretofore béen cruell, yet now may she be courteous. A true-hearted Louer forgets all trespasses, and a smile cureth the wounding of a frowne. Thus after the manner of fond Louers he flattered himselfe in his owne folly, and in the praise

praise of his faire Lady, he sang this pleasant Ditty here following.

THe pride of Brittaine is my hearts delight,
My Lady lives, my true love to requite:
And in her life I live that else were dead,
Like withered leafes in time of winter shed.

She is the joy and comfort of my mind,
She is the sun that cleareſt sight doth blind;
The faireſt flower that in the world doth grow,
Whose whitnes doth surpasse the driven snow.

Her gentle words more sweet than hony are,
Her eyes for clearnesse dimmes the brighteſt star.
O, were her heart so kind as she is faire,
No Lady might with my true love compare.

A thousand griefes for her I have sustained,
While her proud thoughts my humble suit disdained.
And though she would my heart with torments kill,
Yet would I honour, serve and love her still.

Blest be the place where she doth like to live:
Blest be the light that doth her comfort give:
And blessed be all creatures farre and neare,
That yeeld reliefe unto my Lady deare.

Never may sorrow enter where she is,
Never may she contented comfort misse,
Never may she my proffered love forsake,
But my good will in thankfull sort to take.

Thus feeding his fancy with the sweet remembrance of her beauty, being never satisfied with thinking, and speaking in her praise, at length he resolued himself to goe into Flintshire, where he might sollicite his suite anew againe: but comming neere to the place of her residence; and hearing report of her troubles, he so highly commended her faith and constancy, that at length he was clapt vp in prison by her, and in the end he was condemned to receiue equall torment, for a triall of his owne truth.

But during the time that they lay both in prison, the Journeymen Shoomakers never left him, but yeelded him great relefe cõtinually, so that he wanted nothing that was necessary for him

in requitall

In requitall of which kindnesse he called them Gentlemen of the Gentle Craft, and a few dayes before his death, he made this long in their due commendations.

OF Craft and Crafts-men more and lesse,
The *Gentle Craft* I must commend:
Whose deeds declare their faithfulnesse,
And hearty love unto their friend:
The *Gentle Craft* in midst of strife,
Yeelds comfort to a carefull life.

A Prince by birth I am indeed,
The which for Love forsooke this Land:
And when I was in extreme need,
I tooke the *Gentle Craft* in hand,
And by the *Gentle Craft* alone,
Long time I liv'd, being still unknowne.

Spending my dayes in sweet content,
With many a pleasant sugred Song:
Sitting in pleasures complement,
Whilst we recorded Lovers wrong:
And while the *Gentle Craft* we us'd,
True Love by us was not abus'd.

Our hooes we sowed with merry notes,
And by our mirth expell'd all mone:
Like Nightingales, from whose sweet throats,
Most pleasant tunes are nightly blowne;
The *Gentle Craft* is fittest then,
For poore distressed Gentlemen.

Their minds doe mount in courtesie,
And they disdaine a niggards feast:
Their bodies are for Chivalry,
All cowardnesse they doe detest.
For Sword and Shield, for Bow and Shaft,
No man can staine the *Gentle Craft*.

Yea sundry Princes sore distrest,
Shall seeke for succour by this Trade:
Whereby their griefes shall be redrest,
Of foes they shall not be afraid.

And many men of fame likewise,
Shall from the *Gentle Craft* arise.

If we want money over night,
Ere next day noone God will it send,
Thus may we keep our selves upright,
And be no churle unto our friend:
Thus doe we live where pleasure springs,
In our conceit like petty kings.

Our hearts with care we may not kill,
Mans life surpasseth worldly wealth,
Content surpasseth riches still,
And fie on knaves that live by stealth:
This trade therefore both great and small
The *Gentle Craft* shall ever call.

When the Journey-men Shoomakers had heard this Song, and the faire Title that Sir Hugh had giuen their Trade, they ingraued the same so deepely in their mindes, that to this day it could neuer bee razed out: like a remembrance in a Marble stone, which continueth time out of minde.

But not long after came that dolefull day, wherein these two Louers must loose their liues, who like two meeke Lambs were led to the slaughter: the bloody performance thereof was to be done hard by that faire Fountaine, where the Loue-despising Lady made her most abode: and because shee was a Kings daughter, the bloody Tyrant gaue her the priuiledge to chuse her owne death: to the which she passed with as good a countenance, as if she had been a faire young Bride prepared for marriage.

(viz.) When they were come to the place of execution, and mounted vpon the Scaffold, they seemed for beauty like two bright Stars, Castor and Pollux; there they embraced each other with such chaste desires, as all those that beheld them, admired to see how stedfast and firme both these Louers were, ready in hearts and minds for heauen it selfe.

At what time the Lady turned her selfe to Sir Hugh, and spake to this effect: Now doe I finde thee a perfect Louer indeed, that hauing setled thy affection aboue the Skies, art ready to yeeld thy life for thy Loue, who in requitall thereof, will giue thee life for euer.

The loue of earthly creatures is mixed with many miseries,

and interlaced with sundry sorrowes; and here griefe shall abate the pleasures of Loue, but be well assured that ioy shall follow the same.

Thou didst woe me for loue, and now haue I won thee to loue, where setling both our loues vpon God his loue, we will loue one another; and in token of that heauenly loue receiue of me I pray thee, a chaste and louing kisse from my dying lips.

Faire Winifred (quoth he) it is true indeed; I neuer loued truly vntill thou taughtest me to loue; for then my loue was full of discontent: but now altogether pleasing, and more sweet is the thought thereof than any tongue can expresse.

The thing that I euer before called Loue, was but a shadow of loue, a sweetnesse tempered with gall, a dying life, and a liuing death, where the heart was continually tossed vpon the Seas of tempestuous sorrowes, and wherein the minde had no calme quietnesse: and therefore blessed be the time that I euer learned this loue. With that he was interrupted by the Tyrant, who said, You are not come hither to talke, but to dye; I haue sworne you both shall dye at this instant. Thou Tyrant (sayd Sir Hugh) the very like sentence is pronounced against thy selfe; for Nature hath doomed that thou shalt dye likewise, and albeit the execution thereof be something deferred, yet at length it will come, and that shortly, for neuer did Tyrant carry gray haires to the graue.

The young Lady desired first to dye, saying to Sir Hugh, Come deare friend, and learne magnanimity of a Maide: now shalt thou see a silly woman scorne death at his teeth, and make as small account of his cruelty, as the Tyrant doth of our liues; and therewithall stript vp her silken sleeues, and committed her Alabaster armes into the executioners foule hands, hauing made choice to dye in bleeding: at what time being pricked in euery vaine, the scarlet blood sprang out in plentifull sort, much like a precious fountaine lately filled with Claret wine.

And while she thus bled, she said, Here doe I sacrifice my blood to him that bought me, who by his blood washt away all my sinnes. O my sweet Sauiour, thus were thy sides pierced for my transgressions, and in this sort sprang thy precious blood from thee, and all for the loue thou bearest to mankinde: I feele my heart to faint, but my soule receiueth strength, I come sweet Christ, I come. And here withall her body fainting, and the blood failing, like a Conduit suddenly drawne dry, the young Princesse fell downe dead, at what time a pale

colour ouer-spread her faire face in such comely sort, as if a heap of Roses had ben shadowed with a sheet of pure Lawne.

But it is to be remembred, that all the while the young Princesse bled, her blood was received into certaine basons, which being in that sort saued together, the Tyrant caused it to be tempered with poyson, and prepared it to be the last drinke that Sir Hugh should haue, saying; That by her loue whom he so dearely loued, he should receiue his death. And thereupon incontinently, without any further delaying of time, he caused a cup of that most deadly poysoned blood to bee deliuerd into his hands, who with a louely and cheerefull countenance receiued the same, and then vttered his minde in this manner.

O thou cruell Tyrant (quoth he) what a paire lyte is this to inflict vpon a dying man, that is as carefull how hee dies, as when he dies. Easie it is for thee to glut me with blood, although with blood thou art not satisfied. Sweet blood (quoth he) precious and pure, how faire a colour hast thou cast before mine eyes? Sweet I say wast thou, before such time as this ill-fauoring poyson did infect thee: and yet as thou art, I nothing despise thee. O my deare Winifred, full little did I thinke that euer I should come to drinke of thy heart-blood.

My greedy eye, that glutton-like did feede vpon thy beauty, and yet like the Sea was neuer satisfied, is now with thy gore blood fully gorged. Now may I quench my thirsty desire with loue, that like hot burning coales set my heart in such an extreme heate, that it could not be quenched before this time; for if faire VVinifred could spare any loue from Heauen, assuredly she left it in her blood; her sweet heart blood I meane, that nourished her chaste life: see, here is a Candle to cole my vaine affections. Far be it that my true Louer should euer taste the like.

But this punishment haue the iust heauens poured vpon me, for preferring the loue of an earthly creature, before the loue of an heauenly Creator; Pardon, O Lord the foule sins of superstitious Louers, that while they make Idols of their Ladies, they forget the honour of thy diuine Maiesty. Yet doth it doe my heart much good to thinke that I must bury sweet VVinifreds blood in my body, whose loue was lodged long agoe in my heart: and therewithall drinking the first draught, he said, O Lord, mee seemeth this portion hath a comfortable taste, farre doth it surpasse that Nectar wherewith the gods were nourished.

Well (said the Tyrant) seeing it pleaseth thee so well, thou shalt haue more; and therewith another cup of the same blood was giuen him to drinke.

yes

M[illegible]
And marke w[illegible]
First a Drawer and a D[illegible]
two Wedges, a more and a lesser:
A pretty block three inches high,
in fashion squared like a Die,
Which shall be called by proper name,
a Heele block, the very same.
A Hand-leather and a Thumb-leather likewise,
to pull out shoo-threed we must devise;
The Needle and the Thimble,
shall not be left alone,
The Pincers and the pricking Aule
and the rubbing Stone.
The Aule-steele and Tackes,
the Sow-haires beside,
The Stirrop holding fast,
while we sow the Cow-hide,
The whetstone, the stopping sticke,
and the Paring knife:
All this doth belong,
to a Journeymans life.
Our Apron is the Shrine,
to wrap these bones in:
Thus shrowded we Saint *Hugh*
in gentle Lambs skin.

Now all you good Yeamen of the Gentle Craft, tell mee now (quoth he) how like you this?

As well (replyed they) as Saint George doth of his Horse, so as long as we can see him fight with the Dragon, we will ne: part from this Posie.

And it shall be concluded that what Journey-man soeur be hereafter, that cannot handle the Sword and Buc his Long Sword, or a Quarter-staffe, sound the Trum or a play upon the Flute, and beare his part in s mans Song, and readily reckon up his tales in Rime he hath borne Colours in the field, being a Lieutenant generall or Corporal, shall forfeit & pay a pottle of wine, or forfeit a colt: to which they answered al viva voce, Cont

[illegible] and neuer [illegible] on their backs: which [illegible] bones.

CHAP. V.

How *Crispianus* and his brother *Crispine*, the two sons of the King of *Logria*, through the cruelty of the Tyrant *Maximinus*, were faine in disguised manner to seek for their lives safety, and how they were entertained by a shoomaker in *Feversham*.

WHen the Roman Maximinus sought in cruell sort, to bereaue this Land of all her noble youth or youth of noble blood; The vertuous Queene of Logria (which now is called Kent) dwelling in the City Durovernum, aliás Canterbury, or the Court of Kentishmen, hauing at that time two young Sonnes, sought all the meanes she could possibly to keepe them out of the Tyrants clawes; and in this manner she spake vnto them.

My deare and beloued sons the ioy and comfort of my age, you see the danger of these times and the stormes of a Tyrants raign, who hauing now gathered together the most part of the young Nobility, to make them slaues in a forraigne Land, that are free borne in their owne Country, seeketh for you also, thereby to make a cleare riddance of all our borne Princes, to the end he might plant strangers in their stead. Therefore (my sweet sons) take the counsell of your mother, and seeke in time to preuent ensuing danger, which will come vpon vs suddenly as a storme at sea, and as cruelly as a Tyger in the wildernes; therfore suiting your selues in honest habits, seeke [illegible] pore seruice shield you from mischance, seeing necessity [illegible] priuiledged [illegible]se places from Tyranny. And so (my sons) [illegible] gracious [illegible]uens may one day raise you to deserued dignit[illegible] honour.

[illegible]he young Lads seeing their mother so earnes[illegible] haue them fulfilled her commandement, and casting off [illegible]eir attire, [illegible]melie garments on, and with many bitter te[illegible]es tooke [illegible] the Queene their mother, desiring her b[illegible]re they [illegible] bestow her blessing vpon them.

[illegible]ons (quoth she) stand you now vpon your cerimon[illegible] had [illegible] to giue you one kisse, it were something; Th[illegible] [illegible]et you gon, away, away, make haste May, let not [illegible] time oue[illegible]

time ouerslip you, for the Tyrants hard by: with that she pushed them out of a backe doore, and then set her selfe down to weepe.

The two yong Princes, which like pretty lambs went straying they knew not whether, at length by good fortune, came to Feversham, where before the Bayes weepe, they heard certaine shoomakers singing, being as pleasant as their notes, as they sate at their businesse, and this was their Song.

WOuld God that it were Holiday,
hey dery downe downe dery:
That with my love I might goe play,
with woe my heart is weary:
My whole delight is in her sight,
would God I had her company,
her company,
Hey dery downe, downe adowne.

My love is fine, my love is faire,
hey dery downe, downe dery:
No maid with her may well compare,
in Kent or Canterbury;
From me my Love shall never move,
would God I had her company,
her company,
Hey dery downe, downe a downe.

To see her laugh, to see her smile,
hey dery downe, downe dery:
Doth all my sorrowes cleane beguile,
and makes my heart full merry;
No griefe doth grow where she doth goe,
would God I had her company, &c.
Hey dery downe, downe a downe.

When I doe meet her on the greene,
hey dery downe, downe dery:
Me thinks she lookes like beauties Queen,
which makes my heart full merry;
Then I her greet with kisses sweet,
would God I had her company, &c.
Hey dery downe, downe adowne.

My love comes not of churlish kinde,
hey dery downe downe dery:
But beares a gentle courteous minde,
which makes my heart full merry;
She is not coy, she is my joy,
would God I had her company, &c.
Hey dery downe downe adowne.
Till Sunday come, farewell my Deare,
hey dery downe downe dery.
When we doe meet, weele have good cheare,
and then I will be merry:
If thou love me, I will love thee,
and still delight thy company, thy company,
Hey dery downe downe adowne.

The young Princes perceiuing such mirth to remaine in so homely a cottage, iudged by their pleasant notes, that their hearts were not cloyed with ouer many cares, and therefore wished it might be their good hap to be harboured in a place of such great content.

But standing a long time in doubt what to doe, like two distressed strangers, combating twixt hope and feare; at length taking courage, Crispianus knocked at the doore: What knaue knocks there (quoth the Journey-man) and by and by downe he takes his quarter staffe and opens the doore, being as ready to strike as speake, saying: What lacke you? To whom Crispianus made this answer: God sir, pardon our boldnesse, and measure not our truth by our rudenesse; we are two poore boyes that want seruice, stript from our friends by the fury of these warres, and therefore are we enforced successelesse to craue seruice in any place. What, haue you no friends or acquaintance in these parts to goe to (said the Shoomakers) by whose meanes you might get preferment? Alas sir (said Crispianus) necessity is despised of euery one, and misery is trodden downe of many; but seldome or neuer releiued: yet notwithstanding, if our hope did not yeeld vs some comfort of good hap, we should grow desperate through distresse. That were great pitty (said the Shoomaker) be content, for as our Dame often tels our Master, A patient man is better than a strong man. Stay a while and I will call our Dame to the doore, and then you shall heare what she will say. With that he went in, and forth came his Dame, who beholding the said youths, said: How alas, poore boyes, how

comes

comes it to passe that you are out of seruice? What, would you be Shoomakers, and learne the Gentle Craft? Yes forsooth (said they) with all our hearts. Now by my troth (quoth thee) you doe loke with honest true faces. I will entreat my husband for you, for wee would gladly haue good boyes; and if you will be iust and true, and serue God, no doubt you may doe well enough: Come in my lads, come in. Crispianus and his brother, with great reuerence gaue her thankes; and by that time they had stayed a little while, downe came the good man, and his wife hard by his heeles, saying: See husband, these be the youths I told you of, no doubt but in time they will bee good men.

Her husband loking wishly vpon them, and conceiuing a good opinion of their fauours, at length agreed that they should dwell with him, so that they would be bound for seven yeeres. The youths being contented, the bargaine was soone ended, and so set to their businesse: whereat they were no sooner setled, but that great search was made for them in all places: and albeit the officers came to the house where they dwelt, by the reason of their disguise they knew them not: hauing also taken vpon them borrowed names of Crispianus and Crispine. Within a few daies after, the Queene their mother was by the Tyrant taken, and for that she would not confesse where her Sonnes were, shee was laid in prison in Colchester Castle: whereunto shee went with as chearefull a countenance, as Cateratus did, when hee was led captiue to Rome; and comming by the place where her sons sate at worke, with a quick eye she had soone espied them: and loke how a dying coale reuiues in the wind, euen so at this sight shee became suddenly red: but making signes that they should hold their tongues, she was led along: whom seuen yeeres after her sons did neuer see. But as men stand amazed at the sight of Apparitions in the ayre, as ignorant what successe shall follow; euen so were these two Princes agast to see their owne mother thus led away, not knowing what danger would ensue thereof.

Notwithstanding, they thought good to keepe their seruice as their liues surest refuge: at what time they both bent their whole minds to please their Master and Dame, refusing nothing that was put to them to doe, were it to wash dishes, scoure kettles, or any other thing, whereby they thought their Dames fauour might bee gotten, which made her the readier to giue them a good report to their Master, and to doe them many other seruices, which otherwise they should haue missed:

following therein the admonition of an old Journey-man, who would alwayes say to the Apprentices;

Howsoever things doe frame,
Please well thy Master, but chiefly thy Dame.

Now by that time, these two young Princes had truely serued their Master the space of foure or fiue yeares, he was growne something wealthy, and they very cunning in their trade; whereby the house had the name to breed the best workmen in the Country which report in the end preferd their Master to be the Emperours Shoomaker: and by this meanes, his seruants went to Maximinus Court euery day: but Crispianus and Crispine fearing they should haue beene knowne, kept themselues from thence, as much as they could. Notwithstanding, at the last perswading themselues that Time had worne them out of knowledge, they were willing in the end to goe thither, as well to heare tidings of the Queene their Mother, as also for to seeke their own preferment.

Chap. VI.

How the Emperours faire daughter *Vrsula*, fell in love with young *Crispine*, comming with Shooes to the Court; and how in the end they were secretly married by a blind Frier.

NOw among all the Shoomakers men that came to the Court with shoes, young Crispine was had in greatest regard with the faire Princesse, whose Mother being lately dead, she was the onely ioy of her Father, who alwayes sought meanes to match her with some worthy Romane, whose renowne might ring throughout the whole world.

But faire Vrsula, whose bright eyes had entangled her heart with desire of the Shoomakers fauour, despised all proffers of Loue, in regard of him. And yet notwithstanding she would oft checke he owne opinion, in placing her loue vpon a person of such low degree, thus reasoning with her selfe.

Most aptly is the god of Loue by cunning Painters drawne blind, that so equally shoots forth his fiery shafts: for had he eies to see, it were impossible to deale in such sort, as in matching faire Venus with foule Vulcan, yoaking the Emperiall hearts of Kings to the loue of beggars, as he did to Cofetua, and as now in my selfe I finde how mad a thing it would seeme to the eyes of the world, that an Emperours daughter should delight in the fauour of a simple Shoomaker.

O Vrsula take heed what thou doest, staine not thy royalty with such indignity. O that Crispines birth were agreeable to his person! for in mine eye, there is no Prince in the world comparable to him: if then while hee is clothed in these rags of seruitude, he appeare so excellent, what would he be, were he in Princely attire. O Crispine, either thou art not as thou seemest, or else Nature, in disgrace of Kings, hath made thee a Shoomaker.

In these humours would the Princesse be often, especially at Crispines approach, or at his departure: For, as soone as euer he came within her sight with shoes, a sudden blush like a flame of lightning would strike in her face, and at his departure an earthly pale colour, like to the beames of the bright Sun obscured by coale black clouds. But after many weary conflicts with fancy, shee fully resolued, at his next comming, to enter into communication with him, but imagining his stay from Court ouer long, on the sudden she sent presently for him, finding great fault in the last shoes he brought her. At what time Crispine most humbly on his knee greatly craued pardon for all such faults as she then had found, promising amendment in the next shoes she should haue.

Nay (quoth she) Ile shew thee, they are too low something in the instep; also the heele is bad, and besides that, thee are too strait in the toes. You shall haue a paire made (said hee) shall fit you better, for none shall set a stitch in them but mine owne selfe. Doe, said the Princesse, but let me haue them so soone as thou canst, and therewith Crispine departed.

The Princesse then all solitary, got her selfe into her Chamber, entred there into consideration, and found within her selfe great trouble and sorrow, while the tongue, the hearts aduocate, was not suffered to speake. At last she heard Crispines voyce, enquiring of the Ladies in the great Chamber for the Princesse, who answered. That hauing taken little rest the night before, shee was now laid downe to sleepe, and therefore they willed him to come againe some other time. Asleepe, replied the Princesse! I am not a sleepe, bid him stay: what hasty huswife was that which sent him hence? Call him againe quickly I would aduise you. And therefore changing melancholy into mirth, shee arose vp from out of her bed, and as a bright starre shooting in the Element, she swiftly got her forth to meet the Shoomaker, whose faire sight was to her as great a comfort as a Sun-shine before a showre of raine. How now

(quoth she) hast thou brought me a paire of shoes? I haue (gracious Madam, quoth he.) Then (quoth the Princesse) come thy selfe and draw them on: therewith she sitting downe, lifted vp her well proportioned leg vpon his gentle knée. Where, by that time her shoes were drawne on, she had prepared a good reward for her shoomaker, and giuing him a handfull of gold, she said: Thou hast so well pleased mee in making of these shoes, that I cannot but reward thee in some good sort; therefore shoomaker, take this, and from henceforth let no man make my shoes but thy selfe. But tell me Crispine, art thou not in loue, that thou doest smug vp thy selfe so finely, thou wast not wont to goe so neatly: I pray thee tell me what pretty wench is it that is mistresse of thy heart? Truely, faire Madam (quoth he) If I should not loue, I might be accounted barbarous, for by natures course there is a mutuall loue in all things: the Doue and the Peacocke loue intirely, so doth the Turtle and the Popiniay: the like affection the fish Musculus beareth vnto the huge Whale, insomuch that he leadeth him from all danger of stony rocks; and as among birds and fishes, so amongst plants and trées the like concord is to be found; for if the male of palme trées be planted from the female, neither of both prosper: and being set one néere another, they doe flourish accordingly, imbracing with ioy the branches one of another. And for mine owne part, I am in loue too: for first of all I loue my Maker, and next, my good Master and Dame: But as concerning the loue of pretty wenches, verily Madam, I am cleare: and the rather doe I abstaine from firing my fancy on women, séeing many sorrowes do follow the married sort, for a dram of delight hath a pound of paine.

That is (answered the Princesse) where contention setteth the house on fire, but where true Loue remaines, there is no discontent: and what can a man more desire for this worlds comfort, but a vertuous wife, which is reported to bee a treasure inestimable. Therefore Crispine, say thy minde, if I preferre thee to a wife, euery way deseruing thy loue, wouldest thou take it well?

Truely Madam, (said Crispine) if I should not accept of your good will, I should shew my selfe more vnmannerly than well nurtured: But seeing it pleaseth you to grace mee with your Princely countenance, and to giue mee liberty to speake my minde, this is my opinion: If I were to choose a wife, then would I haue one faire, rich, and wise; first, to delight mine eye: secondly, to supply my want: and thirdly, to gouerne my house.

Then

Then (ſaid the Princeſſe) her beauty I will referre vnto the iudgement of thine owne eyes, and her wiſedome vnto the triall of Time: but as concerning her portion, I dare make ſome report, becauſe it well deſerueth to be praiſed: For at her marriage thou ſhalt haue a bag full of rare vertues with her. Truely Madam (quoth Criſpine) ſuch coynes goe not currant among Tanners: and I know, if I ſhould goe with it to the Market, it would buy me no ſoale-leather. Notwithſtanding, when I doe ſée her, I will tell you more of my mind.

The Princeſſe taking him aſide priuately, walking with him in a faire Gallery, ſaid; In looking vpon me, thou mayeſt iudge of her, for ſhe is as like me as may be. When Criſpine heard her ſay ſo, hee right prudently anſwered: I had rather Madam thee were your owne ſelfe, than like your ſelfe; and although my words ſauour of preſumption, yet with your fauour I dare boldly pronounce it, that I hold my ſelfe worthy of a Queene, if I could get her good will. And were it no danger to match with your Excellency, ſo it ſhould pleaſe you, it ſhould not diſlike me.

Then ſaid the Princeſſe. Now Shoomaker, I ſée thou haſt ſome courage in thee: and doubt thou not, but if I were of that minde, but I would bee as ready to guide thee from the dangerous rocks of my Fathers wrath, as the fiſh called Muſculus is for the Whale: But, couldeſt thou not be contented to dye for a Ladies loue? no Madam, (quoth he) if I could keepe her loue and liue.

Then liue faire friend (anſwered ſhe) enioy my Loue, for I will dye rather than liue without thee. Criſpine hearing this, was ſtricken into an extaſie of ioy, in ſuch ſort, as he wiſt not whether he were aſléepe or dreamed: But by that time hee had ſummoned his wits together, with the plighting of his faith, he opened his eſtate and high birth vnto her, ſhewing all the extremities that he and his brother had béene put vnto ſince the death of their royall Father, and of the impriſonment of the Quéene their Mother.

The which when faire Vrſula with great wonder heard, giuing him an earneſt of her loue with a ſweet kiſſe: ſhe ſayd, My deare Loue, and moſt gentle Prince, euer did I thinke, that more than a common man was ſhrowded in theſe poore habiliments, which made me the bolder to impart my mind vnto thee, and now dread no more my Fathers wrath, for the fire thereof was long agoe quenched.

No.

No, no, (quoth Crispine) an Eagles thirst is neuer expelled, but by blood. And albeit your father haue now (perhaps) qualified the heate of his fury by the length of time, yet if he should vnderstand of this my loue to thee, it would cause him to rake out of the ashes hot burning coales of displeasure againe: and then might my life pay a deare price for thy loue.

Therefore (my deare Vrsula) I desire thee, euen by the power of that loue thou beares to me to keep secret what I haue shewed thee, nothing doubting but that in time, I may finde release of these miseries; in the meane space we will be secretly married, by which holy knot, we as well in body, as in heart, be vnseparately tyed together.

To this Vrsula consented most gladly, and thereupon told him that she would meet him in her Fathers Parke, at any houre he would appoint; which shee might doe the more easily, in respect shee had a key to one of the Garden doores, which gaue present passage into the Parke. The day and houre being concluded vpon, they parted for this time, both of them indued with such content, as in all their liues they neuer found the like.

And at this time there was in Canterbury a blinde Frier that in many yeares had neuer seen the Sun; to this man did Crispine goe, thinking him the fittest Chapplaine to chop vp such a marriage, who meeting with him at Christ-church one euening after the Antheme, broke with him after this manner.

God speed good father: there is a certaine friend of mine that would bee secretly married in the morning betimes; for which purpose hee thinkes you the fittest man to performe it in all the Cloyster: and therefore, if you will bee diligent to doe it, and secret to conceale it, you shall haue foure angels for your paines.

The Frier being fired with the desire of his gold, rubbing his elbow and scratching his crowne, swore by the blessed Book that hung by his knee, that he would be both willing and constant to keep it secret. Tush young man, you may trust me, I haue done many of these feates in my dayes; I know that youth are youth, but they would not haue all the world wonder at their doings: and where shall it be, said the Frier? quoth Crispine, at Saint Gregories Chappell; and because you shall not make your boy acquainted therewith, I my selfe will call you in the morning. Good father, be not forgetfull to obserue the time, all two of the clocke is the houre, and therefore looke you bee ready when I shall call you. I warrant you (replied

plied the Frier:) and because I will not ouerslæpe my selfe, I will for this night lye in my clothes, so that as soone as euer you call, I will straight be ready. Then father, I will trust you (quoth Crispine) and so departed.

When he came to his Master, he made not many words, but so soone as he had supt on Sunday at night, he went to his Chamber; and layd him downe vpon his bed, making no creature in the house priuy to his intent, not his owne brother, his minde still running on his faire Mistresse, and the happy houre that would tye them both in one: neuer was there hunger starued man that did long more for the sweet approach of wholesome food than did Crispine for two a clocke. And so soone as the silent night had drawne all things to rest, Crispine got him vp, and to Canterbury goes he to méet his rose-cheeked Lady in her Fathers Park, who also tooke hold of Times forelocke, and like cleare Cynthia shaped her course to séeke out Sol in the Meridian. But so soone as her searching eye had spied him, she commended his vigilancy, saying: He wel obserued his houre: O my deare (quoth she) rich preyes doe make true men theeues: but finding thee here so happily, I will fetch the Frier straight: he had no sooner called at the Friers doore, but he presently heard him: & groaping the way downe, he opened the doore, and along they went together: but the Frier finding his Journey longer than he expected, said: That either Saint Gregories Chappell was removed, or else hee was, not so good a footman as he was wont to be: that is likely enough (said Crispine:) for how much the older you are since you went this way last, so much the weaker you are to trauell, but be you content, now we are at the last come to the place, and therefore good Frier make what spéed you may. I warrant you (quoth he) and there withall he puts his spectacles vpon his nose. The faire Princesse perceiuing that, laughed heartily, saying: Little néed hath a blind man of a paire of Spectacles. Truely Mistresse, said he, a little néed hath an old man of a young wife; but you may sée what vse is: Though I be blind and can sée neuer a letter, yet I cannot say Masse without my Booke and my Spectacles; and then he proceeded to solemnize their marriage, which being finished, the Frier had his gold, and home he was led: in the meane time the Princesse staied still in the Park for her bridegroome, where when hee came on a banke of sweet Primroses, he pluckt the rose of amorous delight: and after the Princesse came to her Fathers Palace, and Crispine to his Masters shop.

Chap. VII.

How *Crispianus* was prest to the warres, and how he fought with *Iphicratis* the renowned Generall of the *Persians*, who made war upon the Frenchmen: shewing also the occasion that a Shoomakers son is said to be a Prince borne.

In the meane time that Crispine was secretly busied about his marriage, his brother Crispianus the same night, with many others, was prest to wars into the Countrey of Gaule, now called France, which made his Master and Dame full of woe; who had committed to his gouernment the whole rule of his house. And when Crispine came home, they told him what chance had hapned. And demanded where he had bene; they said, they were glad he had so well escaped.

Crispine excusing himselfe so well as he could, said, he was sorry for his brothers sudden departure: notwithstanding, the ioy of his late marriage mitigated much of his sorrow: to whom in his brothers absence, his Master gaue the ouersight of his household, which place he guided with such discretion, as thereby he got both the good will of his Master, and the loue of the household. And as he sate one day at his work, he sung this song in commendation of marriage; himselfe sung the Ditty, and his fellows bore the burthen.

A Mong the ioyes on earth, though little ioy there be,
hey downe downe adowne, fine is the silken twist,
Among the married sort most comfort I doe see:
hey downe downe adowne, beleeve it they that list.
He that is a married man, hath beauty to embrace,
hey downe downe adowne, and therefore mickle woe:
He liveth in delight, and is in happy case,
hey downe downe adowne, in faith we thinke not so.
His wife doth dresse his meate, with every thing most meet,
hey downe downe adowne, faire women loue good cheare:
And when he comes to bed, she gives him kisses sweet,
hey downe downe adowne, for thankes he payes full deare.
A hundred honey sweets, he hath when that is done,
hey downe downe adowne, the truth is seldome knowne.
He hath in a little time a daughter or a son,
hey downe downe adowne, God grant they be his owne.
A wife is evermore, both faithfull true and just,
hey downe downe adowne, 'tis more than you doe know:

Her

Her husband may be ſure, in her to put his truſt,
hey downe downe a downe, moſt are deceiued ſo.
While he doth ride abroad, ſhe lookes vnto his houſe,
hey downe downe a downe, the fineſt cloth is torne:
And when he comes, ſhe gives him brawne and ſowſe,
hey downe downe a downe, and oftentimes the horne.

How now, what is that you ſay (quoth Criſpine?) Nothing (quoth they) but onely beare the burthen of your Song. And ſurely we thinke it great pitty that you are not married, ſeeing you can ſing ſo well in the praiſe of marriage. Truely (quoth he) were it not for that holy Inſtitution, what would the world be but a brood of hapleſſe baſtards; like to the curſed ſeed of Cain, men fit for all manner of villany, and ſuch as would leaue behind them a race of runnagates, perſons that would liue as badly as they are lewdly begotten.

The reſt of the Iourney-men hearing him enter into ſuch a deepe diſcourſe of the matter, began therefore to demand many queſtions: but ſeeing it appertaines not to our matter, weele leaue them to their diſputation: and in the meane ſpace I will ſhew you ſomething of Criſpianus, who is now in France, with many other Noble Britaines, whom Maximinus ſent thither to aide the Gaules againſt the mighty force of Iphicratis the Perſian General, who had at this time inuaded their countrey with a great power. The day of battell being appointed, the Armies met in the field, at what time both the Generals like two Lyons filled with wrath in their proud march viewed one another, breathing forth on both ſides words of diſdaine, and thus the Generall of the Gaules began.

Thou inſulting Commander of the Caſterne troupes, how durſt thou ſet thy ambitious foot within our territories? Cannot the confines of Perſia content thee, nor thoſe conquered kingdoms already in thy hand, but that with vnſatiate deſire thou muſt come to vſurpe our right? Know thou, that the vndaunted Gaules doe ſcorne thee: for albeit that Alexander like, thou ſeekeſt to ſubdue the whole world, flattering thy ſelfe in thy fortunes, yet neuer thinke that the ſonne of a Shoomaker ſhall bend our neck to a ſeruile yoke. Therefore in our iuſt right we are come to giue thee hire for thy pride, and by the force of our ſwords to beat downe the Scepter of thy proud thoughts.

The renowned Iphicratis vpon theſe words made this replie: Now may I report that the Gaules can doe ſomething, finding them ſuch good ſcholds: But know this that I come not to raile,

but to reuenge these contemptuous speches, and with the points of sturdy Launces to thrust them down your throats again. Indeed my fathers trade is a reproach vnto me, but thou art a reproach to thy father: but thou shalt vnderstand that a Shoomakers son is a Prince borne, his fortunes made him so, and thou shalt finde no lesse. And hereupon the trumpets sounding to a charge, and the drums stricking alarum, there followed a sore and cruell fight: wherein Crispianus like a second Hector layd about him, hewing downe his foes on euery side. Whose valiancy and Princely courage was noted of all the Gaules. And this fierce fight ended with the nights approach, each Army tooke their rest. At what time the Noble General of the Gaules sent for Crispianus, and receiuing him with sundry kind imbracements in his tent, he demanded of what birth he was. To whom Crispianus shaped this answer: Most worthy Generall, my birth is not meane, and my secrets lesse, but by trade I am a Shoomaker in England.

A Shoomaker (said the Generall!) If such fame waite vpon Shoomakers, and such magnanimity follow them, well were it for vs if all the people in the Kingdome were Shoomakers. And as great thankes I am to giue Maximinus for sending me such a Souldier, as he may be proud to haue such a subiect: and now right sorry am I, that euer I reproached famous Iphicratis, with his fathers trade, seeing I finde it true that Magnanimity and knightly Prowesse is not alwayes tyed within the compasse of Noble blood. And for my owne part, I will so honourably requite thy deseruings, that thou shalt blesse the time thou euer camest into these wars.

The next morning the Generals ioyned battell againe, resoluing in this fight either by death or victory, to make an end of these troubles, where the Souldiers on each side stroue for the golden wreath of renowne. The two Generals meeting in the battell fought couragiously together; in which bloody conflict the Prince of the Gaules was thrice by Iphicratis vnhorsed, and as many times of Crispianus mounted againe: but in the end the great commander of the Easterne Army so mightily preuailed, that he had seized on the person of the French Prince, and was carrying him captiue to that Colours.

But so highly was Crispianus fauoured of fortune, that he and his fellowes met him in the pride of his conquest: who then all besmeared in the Persian blood, set vpon Iphicratis, and so manly behaued himselfe, that he recouered the Prince againe, and in dispight of the Persians, brought him to his Royal Tent in which

encounter

encounter the Noble Iphicratis was sore wounded, by reason whereof the Souldiers had rest for three or foure dayes: in which space Iphicratis sent to the Prince of Gaules, to know what kin he was, that in such a valiant sort reserued him out of his hands, saying; that if he would serue him, he would make him ruler ouer a mighty Kingdome.

The French Prince sent him word, that it was a right hardy Brittaine, which had performed that honourable seruice: but no knight, though well deseruing greater dignity, but a shoomaker in England: and thus (quoth he) a Shoomakers son was by a Shoomaker foyled.

When Iphicratis vnderstood this, hee sent word againe to the Gaules, that for the fauour of that worthy man, he would not onely ceale the wars, but for euer after be a friend to the Gaules: which ioyfull message when the French King vnderstood, most willingly he imbraced the vnlooked for tydings of happy peace: and thereupon made Crispianus a Knight.

After the which there was a great feast ordained, whereunto the renowned Iphicratis was inuited, and the two Generals with Crispianus friendly met together. Thus the sowre war was ended with sweet feasting: and Iphicratis soone after departed out of the Country with his Army, and neuer after annoyed them.

Then the French King, writing his Letter of thankes vnto the Emperour Maximinus, did therein certifie him of the Princely acts of Crispianus, whereby he was brought into the Emperours fauour; and with these Letters Crispianus returned into England.

CHAP. VIII.

How the Lady *Vrsula* finding her selfe to be with childe, made her great mone vnto her husband *Crispine*, and how he provided for her a secret place, where she was delivered.

IN the meane space the Lady Vrsula finding her selfe to be with childe, & her vnknown husband comming one day with shoes vnto her, she made her mone vnto him, saying: O Crispine how shall we doe? the time of my sorrow and shame draweth on; I feele that liuing in my wombe, which I feare will bring death vpon vs all: Why my deare Lady (answered he) art thou with child? keepe thy Chamber close, and wittily excuse thy griefes vntill I haue found meanes to procure our safety.

But dost thou meane faithfully (said she) will thou not de-

ceiue me, and for feare of my Fathers wrath flie the Countrey if thou shouldest doe so, then were I the wretchedst Lady alive. Forsake me not sweet Crispine, whatsoeuer thou doest, but take me with thee whersoeuer thou goest: it is not my fathers frownes that I regard, so I may haue thy fauour: what doe I care for a Princely Pallace: an homely Cottage shall content me in thy company.

O my Loue, I will rather learne to spin hemp for thy shop-thread, than liue without thee in the greatest pleasure.

I will not leaue thee my deare Loue, (quoth he) by that faith I vow, which I plighted to thee at our blessed marriage; and therefore be contented, and it shall not bee long before I returne. Leauing thus his sad Lady, he came home, and secretly brake the matter vnto his Dame, desiring her counsell in this his extremity.

What, how now (quoth she) hast thou got a Maide with child? Ah thou whorson villaine, thou hast vndone thy selfe, how wilt thou doe now? thou hast made a faire hand; here is now sixteen pence a weeke beside Sope and Candles, Beds, Shirts, Biggins, Waistcoats, Headbands, Swadlebands, Crosseclothes, Bibs, Tasseclouts, Mantles, Hose, Shoes, Coats, Petticoats, Cradle and Crickets, and beside that a standing-stoole, and a Posnet to make the Child Pap: all this is come vpon thee besides the charges of all her lying in. Oh Crispine Crispine, I am heartily sorry for thee.

But in good faith, if I knew the queane that hath brought thee to this folly, I would haue her by the face, I sweare to you: for though I speake it before thee (Crispine) thou art a proper fellow, and thou mightest haue done full well, if thou hadst had grace; God hath done his part on thee: and with that she began with kindnesse to weepe. Whereupon her Husband comming in, asked what she ailed: Oh man, (said she) Crispine! Why, Why what of Crispine? tell me. Why speakest thou not? We shall lose a good seruant, so we shall. What seruant shall wee lose foolish woman (quoth he?) Tell me quickly. O husband! by Cocke and Pie I sweare, Ile haue her by the nose. Who wilt thou haue by the nose? What the Deuil art thou mad that thou wilt not answer me? Crispine, who at his Masters comming shunned the roome, lending an eare vnto those words, went to his Master, and said vnto him: Sir, these foure yeares haue I serued you; and the last drawes neere to an end; and as I haue found you a good Master to me, so I trust you haue had no great cause to complaine of me, though (through ignorance) I

I haue sometimes made offence: and knowing at this instant, no man so neere a friend vnto me as your selfe, I haue thought good to impart my secret counsell to you: something I presume vpon my Dames fauour: which made mee open that vnto her, which now I wish I had not discouered. Notwithstanding, resting more vpon your discretion than her secrecy, I would desire your counsell in a matter that concernes mee very neere. Verily said his Master, if it bee a thing wherein I may doe thee good, thou shalt finde that I will not fall from thee in thy sorrowes, and therefore be not abashed to declare thy minde: for I sweare, if I may procure thee right, thou shalt put vp no wrong. Why then sir, thus it is (quoth he) my will running before my wit, I haue gotten a Maiden with childe, and I wot not in this case what to doe, that I might preserue the Maide from shame, and my selfe from discredit: besides I doubt if it be knowne, it will cost me my life: therefore in such case good Master, be secret. Tush man feare not (quoth he) it is a matter of nothing: but I pray thee, now tell mee, what wanton wagtaile is it that thou hast clapt thus vnder the apron? O Master (quoth he) the Kings faire Daughter Vrsula is my Loue, and she it is that liues in care for my sake. Passion of my heart thou whoreson knaue, quoth his Master, thou art a dead man. I maruell how the Deuill thou canest to be so bold with her? Surely thou hast drawne on her shoes on Sunday, I may say, thou hast left so good a token behind: but intruth my boy I commend thee: that thou wouldest shoot at the fairest. Yea Sir, quoth Crispine, and I haue hit the marke I trow, and doe verily beleeue, that none will shoot so nere againe. Nay I weare not, said his Master, many may aime at faire markes, and more than one man hits them now and then: but what wouldst thou haue me to doe in this case? My good Master (quoth Crispine) the truth is, shee is my wife; and the very same night my brother was prest to the warres, I was married to her: and if you could tell me how shee might be deliuered of her burthen without any suspition, I should not onely remaine beholding to you while I liued, but would also gratifie your kindnesse in such sort as should content you. His Dame all this while listned to their talke, and when she vnderstood hee spake of the Kings daughter, and that hee had married her, shee said, Now Gods blessing on thy heart Crispine, that thou art so carefull for thy wife, but it maketh me wonder she would marry a Shoomaker; and a poore fellow too. Master and Dame (quoth Crispine)

seeing

seeing I haue begun, Ile shew you a further matter as strange as the other. The necessity of these times makes many Noble personages to maske in simple habite, as Jupiter did in a shepheards weede; and the truth is, that Lady Vrsula is not ignorant, that by matching with mee shee hath wedded a Prince: and you may say, that these fiue yéers two Princes haue serued you obediently, vnder the simple borrowed names of Crispine and Crispianus.

Our Royall Father was slaine by the Emperour Maximinus, and the Quéene our Mother yet lies imprisoned, and your poore house, and these leather garments haue béen our life of defence against the blood-thirsty tyrant. Now you see, that though there were hate towards vs in the Father, yet there is loue yeelded vs by the daughter. This must bee kept for a certaine time from the knowledge of him, lest our liues pay a deare ransome for our loues. Well Crispine (quoth his Dame) be of good cheare, for I haue a deuice in my head, how to get thy Loue out of her Fathers Pallace, that she may be brought to bed in my owne howse, without either hurt to thee, or dishonour to her, if thou wilt doe as I wish thee. When you doe perceiue that shee growes néere vnto the time of her trauell, I would wish you to worke such meanes as to set some trée on fire late in the night, that standeth somewhat néere one of the Beacons vpon the sea coast, whereby it will follow that such watchmen as watch at our Beacons, supposing the Beacons at the Sea coast to be on fire, will set theirs on fire also. Then will there be a great hurly burlie, with the preparation of men at Armes on all sides, to withstand a supposed foe, that which they shall neuer finde: then (as you know) Maximinus with his houshold will bee in most feare, because hee is most hated, that whilest hee is abroad, the rest of his houshold will euery one of them séeke for their owne safegard, amongst the which, let faire Vrsula be one, who by that meanes singling her selfe alone, may take vp my house, and here she may be closely kept till shee be deliuered, taking vpon her the name and habite of a simple woman. But the truth of this matter (quoth Crispine) I doubt it will soone be perceiued and found out; then how shall Lady Vrsula doe, for she will straight be missed. Tush that's no matter (quoth his Dame) and missed let her be, vntill such time as she is in a better case to goe abroad againe; for in such a tumult as then will be, they will suppose many things, that one mischance or other is befallen her: or if she be in health, that she hath wandred into the woods or some other vncouth place, where

she

ſhe might beſt prouide for ſafety: and when ſhe comes home againe, I warrant thee Criſpine, ſhe ſhall be welcome. Then ſaid his Maſter, I like my wiues counſell well; therefore by my conſent put it in practice: Whereunto Criſpine conſented, and ſo making the Lady priuy to the purpoſe, at length it was put in execution, at what time there was crying out on all ſides, Arme, Arme, Arme: our enemies are comming vpon vs. Where (quoth they?) at Rutupium ſaid one; at Aruvagus Caſtle ſaid another: quoth the third, it is at Doris: I tell you (quoth the fourth) it is at Duur: And all this is but Dover, (ſaid the fifth man;) and at Dover it is vndoubtedly, therefore haſte, haſte away: for neuer was there more néede: ſo that Maximinus was almoſt at his wits end, as one not knowing which way to turne, the cries of the people came ſo thicke, one after another, the waiting Gentlewomen left the Princeſſe, and ſought their own ſafety. Thus while ſome were buſie in carrying out the Kings treaſure, others hiding the plate, and others the goods, Vrſula had an eaſie paſſage into the Shoomakers houſe.

The young Prince Criſpine was gone with the reſt of the town towards Dover, where when they came, there was nothing to doe; which when Maximinus, ſaw hee was not a little glad the warres were ſo ſoone ended: But when he came to the Court and miſſed his daughter, there was poſting vp and downe in euery place to ſéeke her, but all in vaine, for no man could méete with her, for which he made a great lamentation, making a Proclamation throughout the whole Cemtrey, That whoſoeuer could bring her to him, he ſhould not onely haue a Princely reward, but alſo if he were a man of Noble blood he ſhould be honoured with the marriage of his faire daughter. This was good newes to Criſpine, who was not to learne to make profit thereof. But by that time his Lady was light, Criſpianus his eldeſt brother arriued into England with great honour, as before you haue heard. And before hee went to the Court, he thought it good to viſit his old Maſter, who came alſo in good time to the chriſtening of his brothers childe, which when he with wonder beheld, noting what a ſtrange accident there was, that Maximinus daughter ſhould be his brothers wife. But after that he had in Princely mãner ſaluted the new deliuered Lady, taking the infant in his armes, he kiſſed it, ſaying, Now I will ſay and ſweare (ſaid he) that a Shoomakers Sonne is a Prince borne, tayning in the opinion of Iphycratis, and henceforth Shoomakers ſhall neuer let their termede.

Then turning to his Maſter and Dame (he ſaid) how much

deare Master and Dame, are we bound to your favours, that haue maintained our honours with our happinesse; for by this meanes, I hope we shall make a ioyful conclusion of our sorrowfull beginning, and I will so worke, that the Emperor shall confirme what is already begun; I meane, the honour due to these Princely Louers, and together with our happy fortunes procure our mothers liberty.

Hereupon, within a short time after, he made preparation to the Court, he attired himselfe in Princely manner, and with a most knightly grace he deliuered to Maximinus, the King of Gauls letter, where he certified the Emperor of the honourable deeds performed by Crispianus, whereupon he receiued him to great fauour, and said vnto him: Right renowned knight, for the great honour thou hast done me in France, I will honour thee with any thing which thou shalt command, that standeth with the Maiesty and credit of an Emperour to giue. Then I beseech your Highnesse (quoth he) to grant me the life, and liberty of my deare mother, that late Queene of Logria. Art thou her sonne said Maximinus? although thy father was my foe, yet I must needs say, he was a couragious and warlike Prince: thy suit is granted. And once I had a daughter was worthy of thy loue, but vnconstant Fortune hath bereft me of that blisse: but had it pleased the faire Heauens to haue left her me till this day, I would haue made thee more honourable by her match: But seeing that my wishing doth nothing profit thee, take hence the richest Iewell I haue, and be thou next my selfe in authority: with that he tooke from his owne necke a Collar of most precious Diamonds, and gaue it to Crispianus, saying, Be thou as fortunate as Policrates,

Chap. IX.

How faire *Vrsula* came before her father with *Crispine* her husband, who was ioyfully received by him, and in the end had his good will to confirme the marriage betwixt them, whereupon there was great ioy on both sides. And the shoomakers in honour of this happy day, made a ioyfull song.

WIthin a certaine space after, word was brought to the Emperour, that his daughter was with a Shoomaker come to the Court; whereat Maximinus was stricken into a sudden ioy, saying: An honourable Shoomaker may he be that hath brought my faire daughter againe. Welcome my sweet Vrsula, and in good time

time welcome to thy father; and welcome also is this happy young man, that hath so fortunately brought thee: and turning to Crispianus, he said: Noble Sir Knight, take here my daughter to wife; Not so deare Father (quoth she) this man hath best deserued my loue, that hath preserued my life, and his wife will I be. Why Vrsula, said her father, wilt thou darken the sun-shine of my ioy, with the clouds of fouls obstinacy, and yoke thy selfe so vnequally? This man is a Prince. And this mans son is another (quoth she.) That is strange said the Emperour; can that childe be a Prince, whose father is but a Shoomaker?

Then answered Vrsula, My Royall Father, a Shoomakers son is a Prince borne: Most gracious Lord (quoth Crispianus) the very like sentence did I heare the renowned Iphicrates pronounce to the King of Gaules, when he vpbraided him with his birth: with that Crispines Dame presented the childe to the Emperour, and faire Vrsula was very diligent to vncouer the childs face, and held it to her Father. Why daughter (quoth he) art thou not ashamed to honour a base borne brat so much? hence with the Elfe, and there withall pusht it from him; whereat his daughters teares trickled downe her cheeks, and so kissing the childe, gaue it againe to the woman. What (said Maximinus) doest thou loue the childe so well, that thou must kisse it, and weepe for it? I haue cause deare Father (quoth she) for that this childs mother lay in my mothers belly.

At these words the Emperour suspected something, and demanded of Crispine of what parentage he was. And then knowing that he was Crispianus brother, all the controuersie was ended, and their secret marriage confirmed openly, with great ioy and triumph: at which time the Shoomakers in the same towne made Holiday: to whom Crispine and Crispianus sent most Princely gifts for to maintaine their merriment. And euer after vpon that day at night the Shoomakers make great cheare and feasting, in remembrance of these two Princely brethren: and because it might not be forgotten, they caused their names to be placed in the Kalender for a yeerely remembrance, which you shall finde in the moneth of October, about three dayes before the feast of Simon and Jude.

The Shoomakers song on Crispianus night.

TWo Princely brethren once there were,
Right Soànes unto a King.
Whose father tyrant *Maximus*

to cruell death did bring:
Criſpianus one was call'd,
the eldeſt of the two;
Criſpine was the others name,
which well had learned to wooe.
Theſe brethren then were after faine,
from fathers houſe to flie:
Becauſe their foes to ſpoile their lives
in privy wyte did lye:
Into a kind Shomakers houſe,
they ſuddenly ſtept in;
And there to learne the *Gentle Craft*,
did preſently begin.
And five yeares ſpace they lived ſo,
with great content of minde;
So that the Tyrant could not tell,
whereas he ſhould them finde:
Though every day to Court they came,
with ſhooes for Ladies feet;
They were not knowne by their attire,
they us'd themſelves ſo meet.
At length unto the furious wars
was *Criſpianus* preſt:
Whereas his knightly ptoweſſe then
he tried above the reſt.
But *Criſpine* found him better ſport,
would I had *Criſpine* beene:
The Kings faire daughter lov'd him well,
as it was after ſeene.
The length of this faire Ladies foot,
ſo well did *Criſpine* know,
That none but he could pleaſe her mind,
the certaine truth is ſo.
Came he by night or elſe by day,
he was moſt welcome ſtill;
With kiſſes ſweet ſhe did him pay,
and thankes for his good will.
So oft theſe Lovers twaine did meete,

That at the laſt the Lady ſaid,
ſhe ſhould be ſhamed quite;
What was the matter tel me true,
that ſo her ſorrow bred?
Her Shoomaker moſt daintily
had got her maiden head.
But he at length ſo wiſely wrought,
as doth the Story tell:
Her fathers right good will he got,
and every thing was well.
And *Criſpianus* came againe
from warres victoriouſly:
Then Shoomakers made Holyday,
and therefore ſo will I.
And now for *Criſpianus* ſake,
this wine I drinke to thee,
And he that doth this marke miſtake,
and will not now pledge me:
He is not *Criſpianus* friend:
not worthy well I wot,
To have a Lady to his Love,
as *Criſtine* he hath got.

CHAP. X.

How Sir *Simon Eyer* being at firſt a Shoomaker, became in the end Mayor of *London*, through the counſell of his wife: and how he broke his faſt every day on a Table that he ſaid he would not ſell for a thouſand pounds: and how he builded *Leaden Hall*.

OUr Engliſh Chronicles doe make mention, that ſometime there was in the honourable City of London a worthy Mayor, known by the name of Sir Simon Eyer, whoſe fame liueth in the mouthes of many men to this day, who albeit he deſcended from meane parentage, yet by Gods bleſſing, in the end he came to be a moſt worthy man in the common-wealth.

This man being brought young out of the North Country, was bound prentiſe to a Shoomaker, bearing then the name of the Gentle Craft (as ſtill it doth) his Maſter being a man of reaſonable wealth, ſet many Journey-men and prentiſes to worke, who followed their buſineſſe with great delight

excludeth all wearines; for when seruants doe sit at their worke like Dromedaries, then their minds are neuer lightly vpon their businesse; for it is an old prouerbe,

They prove seruants kind and good,
That sing at their businesse like birds in the wood.

Such fellowes had this young Lad, who was not behind with many Northerne Jigs, to answer their Southerne Songs. This youth being the youngest prentise in the house, as occasion serued, was often sent to the Conduit for water, where in short time he fell acquainted with many other prentises comming thither for the same intent.

Now their custome was so, that euery Sunday morning diuers of these prentises did vse to goe to a place neere the Conduit, to breake their fast with pudding-pies, and often they would take Simon along with them: but vpon a time it so fel out, that when he should draw money to pay the shot with the rest, that he had none, whereupon he merrily said vnto them: My faithfull friends, and Conduit companions, treasurers of the water tankard, and main pillers of the pudding-house, I may now compare my purse to a barren Doe, that yeelds the keeper no more good than her empty carkasse: or to a bad nut, which being opened hath neuer a kernell: therefore, if it will please you to pardon me at this time, and excuse me for my part of the shot, I doe here vow vnto you, that if euer I come to be Lord Mayor of this City, I will giue a breakfast vnto all the prentises in London. We doe take your word (quoth they,) and so they departed.

It came to passe, that Simon hauing at length worn out his yeers of Apprentilhip, that he fell in loue with a Maiden that was neere neighbour vnto him, vnto whom at length he was married and got him a shop, and laboured hard daily, and his young wife was neuer idle, but straight when she had nothing to doe, she sate in the shop and spun: and hauing liued thus alone a yeare or thereabout, and hauing gathered something together, at length he got him some prentises and a Journey-man or two, and he could not make his ware so fast as he could haue sold it, so that he stood in great neede of a Journey-man or two more.

At the last, one of his seruants spying one goe along the street with a cardell at his backe, called to his Master, saying, Sir, yonder goes S. Huges bones, twenty pounds to a penny. Run presently (quoth he) and bring him hither. The boy running forth called to the man, saying, God fellow, come hither, here is one would speake with you. The fellow being a French-man that had not long been in England, turning about, said: Den, what you sea-

Will you speake wed me: Hea? what you haue? tell a me, what you haue, hea? And with that comming to the stall, the good man askt him if he lackt worke, We par ma foy, quoth the Frenchman. Hereupon Simon toke him in, and to worke he went merily, where he behaued himselfe so well, that his Master made good account of him, thinking he had beene a Bachelour, but in the end it was found other wise.

This man was the first that wrought vpon the low cut shoe, with the square toe, and the latchet ouerthwart the instep, before which time in England they did weare a high shoe that reached aboue the ankles, right after the manner of our husbandmens shoes at this day, saue onely that it was made very sharpe at the toe turning vp like the taile of an Iland dog: or as you see a Cocke carry his hinder feathers.

Now it is to be remembred, that while John Denevale dwelt with Simon Eyer, it chanced that a ship of the Ils of Candy was driuen vpon our Coast, laden with all kinde of Lawnes & Cambricks, and other linnen cloth: which commodities at that time were in London very scant, and exceeding deare: and by reason of a great leake the ship had got at Sea, being vnable to saile any further, he would make what profit he could of his goods here.

And being come to London, it was John Denevales chance to meet him, in the streets, to whom the Merchant (in the Greek tongue) demanded where he might haue lodging, for he was one that had neuer beene in England before, and being vnacquainted, wist not whither to goe: but while he spake Greeke, John Denevale answered him still in French, which tongue the Merchant vnderstood well: and therefore being glad that he had met with one that could talke to him, he declared vnto him what tempests he endured at Sea, and also how his ship lay vpon the Coast with such Commodities as he would sell. Truely Sir, (quoth John) I am my selfe but a stranger in this Countrey, and vtterly vnacquainted with Merchants, but I dwell with one in the City that is a very honest man, and it may be that hee can help you to some that will deale with you for it, and if you think it good, I will moue him in it, and in the meane space, I le bring you where you may haue a very good lodging; to morrow morning I will come to you againe.

Sir, said the Merchant, if you please to doe me that fauour, I le not onely be thankfull vnto you for the same, but also in most honest sort will content you for your paines: and with that they departed.

Now so soone as John the Frenchman came home, he moued that matter

matter vnto his Master, desiring him that he would doe what hee could for the Merchant. When his Master had heard each circumstance, noting therewith the want of such commodities in the Land, cast in his minde as hee stood cutting vp his worke, what were best to be done in this case, saying to his man John, I will thinke vpon it betwixt this and the morning, and then I will tell you my mind: and therewithall casting downe his cutting knife, he went out of his shop into his Chamber, and therein walked vp and downe alone very sadly, ruminating hereon: he was so farre in his muse, that his wife sending for him to supper two or three times, he nothing regarded the maides call, hammering this matter in his head: at last his wife came to him saying: Husband, what meane you that you doe not come to supper? why speake you not man? Heare you? good husband, come away, your meat will be cold: but for all her words he stood walking vp and downe still, like a man that had sent his wits a woole gathering: which his wife seeing, pulled him by the sleeue, saying, why Husband in the name of God, why come you not? will you not come to supper to night? I called you a good while agoe. Body of me, wife (said he) I promise thee I did not heare thee: no faith, it seemeth so (quoth thee) I I marueil whereupon your minde runneth: beleeue me wife (quoth he,) I was studying how to make my selfe Lord Mayor and thee a Lady.

Now God helpe you (quoth thee) I pray God make vs able to pay euery man his owne, that wee may liue out of debt and danger, and driue the Wolfe from the doore. and I desire no more. But wife, said he, I pray thee now tell me, Doest thou not thinke that thou couldst make shift to beare the name of a Lady, if it should be put vpon thee? In truth Husband (quoth she) Ile not dissemble with you, if your wealth were able to beare it, my minde would beare it well enough. Well, wife, reeplied he, I tell thee now in sadnesse, that if I had money, there is a commodity now to be bought, the gaines whereof would be able to make me a Gentleman for euer. Alas husband, that dignity your trade allowes you already, being a Squire of the gentle Craft, then how can you bee lesse than a Gentleman seeing your sonne is a Prince borne? Tush wife, quoth he, those titles doe onely rest in name, but not in nature: but of that sort had I rather be, whose lands are answerable to their vertues. and whose rents can maintaine the greatnesse of their minde. Then sweet husband, tell me, said his wife, tell me, what commodity is that which you might get so much by? I

am sure your selfe hath some money, and it shall goe very hard but Ile procure friends to borrow one forty shillings, and beside that, rather than you shal lose so good a bargaine, I haue a couple of crownes that saw no Sun since we were first married, and them also shall you haue.

Alas wife (said Simon) all this comes not neere that matter: I confesse it would do some good in buying some backs of leather, but in this thing it is nothing: for this is Merchandize that is pre cious at this time and rare to be had, and I heare, that whosoeuer will haue it must lay down 3000 pounds ready money. Yea wife, and yet therby he might get three three thousand pounds profit.

His wife hearing him say so, was inflamed with the desire thereof, as women are (for the most part) very couetous: that matter running still in her minde, she could scant finde in her heart to spare him time to goe to supper, for very eagernesse to animate him on, to take that bargaine vpon him. Wherfore so soone as they had supt, and giuen God thankes, she called her husband saying: I pray you come hither I would speak a word with you: that man is not always to be blamed that sometimes takes counsell of his wife: though womans wits are not able to comprehend the greatest things, yet in doubtful matters they oft helpe on a sudden.

Well wife, what means you by this (said her husband?) In truth quoth she, I would haue you to plucke vp a mans heart, & speedily chop vp a bargaine for these goods you speake of. Who I, quoth he, which way should I doe it, that am not able for three thousand pounds, to lay downe three thousand pence? Tush man quoth shee, what of that? euery man that beholds a man in the face, knows not what he hath in his purse; and whatsoeuer hee bee that owes the goods, hee will no doubt bee content to stay a month for his money, or three weekes at the least. And I promise you to pay a thousand pounds a weeke is a pretty round payment, and I may say to you, not much to be mistiked of.

Now husband, I would haue you in the morning goe with Iohn the Frenchman to the Grecian Merchant, and with good discretion driue a sound bargaine with him for the whole fraught of the ship, and thereupon giue him halfe a dozen Angels in earnest, and eight and twenty dayes after the deliuery of the goods, condition to deliuer him the rest of his money; But Woman (quoth he) doest thou imagine that hee would take my word for so weighty a masse of money, and to deliuer his goods vpon no better security?

God Lord quoth she, haue you no wit in such a case to make shift? Ile tell you what you shall doe: Be not knowne that you bargaine for your owne selfe, but tell him that you doe it in the behalfe of one of the chiefe Aldermen in the City; but beware in any case, that you leaue with him your owne name in writting; he being a Grecian cannot reade English: and you haue no need at all to shew John the Frenchman, or if you should, it were no great matter, for you can tell well enough that he can neither write nor reade.

I perceiue wife (quoth he) thou wouldst faine be a Lady, and worthy thou art to be one, that dost thus imploy thy wits to bring thy husband profit: but tell me, if he should be desirous to see the Alderman to conferre with him, how shall we doe then? Jesus haue mercy vpon vs (quoth she) you say women are fooles, but me seemeth men haue need to be taught sometimes. Before you come away in the morning, let John the Frenchman tell him that the Alderman himselfe shall come to his lodging in the afternoon: and receiuing a note of all the goods that he in the ship, hee shall deliuer vnto him a bill of his hand for the payment of his money, according to that time. Now sweet heart (quoth she) this Alderman shall be thine owne selfe, and Ile goe borrow for thee all things that shall be necessary against that time. Tush (quoth her husband) canst thou imagine that he seeing me in the morning will not know me againe in the afternoone? O husband (quoth she) he will not know thee, I warrant thee: for in the morning thou shalt goe to him in thy doublet of sheeps skins, with a smutched face, and thy apron before thee, thy thumb-leather and hand-leather buckled close to thy wrist, with a foule band about thy necke, and a greasie cap on thy head. Why woman (quoth he) to goe in this sort will be a discredit to me, and make the Merchant doubtfull of my dealing: for men of simple attire are (God wot) slenderly esteemed.

Hold your peace good husband (quoth she) it shall not be so with you, for Iohn the Frenchman shal giue such good report to the Merchant for your honest dealing (as I praise God he can doe no lesse) that the Grecian will rather conceiue the better of you then otherwise: iudging you a prudent discreet man, that will not make a shew of that you are not, but go in your attire agreeable to your trade. And because none of our folkes shal be privy to our intent, to morrow weele dine at my Cousin Iohn Barbers in S. Clements Lane, which is not farre from the George in Lumbard-street, where the Merchant strangers lie. Now Ile be sure that all things shall be ready at my Cousin Iohns that you shall

part

put on in the afternoone. And there he shall first of all with his sciſſers snap of all the superfluous haires, and fashion thy bushy beard after the Aldermans graue cut: then shal he wash thee with a sweet Camphire Ball, and besprinkle thine head and face with the purest rose water; then shalt thou scoure thy pitchy fingers in a bason of hot water, with an ordinary washing Ball: and all this being done. Strip thee from thels common weeds, and Ile put thee on a very faire doublet of tawny sattin, ouer the which thou shalt haue a cassocke of branched damask, furred round about the Skirts with the finest foynes, thy breeches of blacke Velvet, and shooes and stockings fit for such array: a band about thy necke as white as the driuen snow, and for thy wrists a pretty paire of cuffs, and on thy head a cap of the finest blacke, then shalt thou put on a faire gowne, welted about with Velvet, and ouerthwart the backe thwart it shall be with rich foyne, with a paire of sweet gloues on thy hands, and on thy forefinger a great seale ring of gold.

Thou being thus attired, Ile intreat my Cousin John Barber, because he is a very handsome young man, neat and fine in his apparell, (as indeed all Barbers are) that he would take the paine to wait vpon you vnto the Merchants, as if he were your man, which he will doe at the first, because one of you cannot vnderstand the other, so that it will be sufficient with out ward curtesie one to greet another, and he to deliuer vnto you his notes, and you to giue him your Bill, and so come home.

It doth my heart good to see how trimly this apparell doth become you, in good faith husband, me seemes in my mind, I see you in it already, and how like an Alderman you will look, when you are in this costly array. At your returne from the Merchant, you shal put of all these clothes at my Cousins again, and come home as you did goe forth. Then tell Iohn the Frenchman, that the Alderman was with the Merchant this afternoone; you may send him to him in the morning, and bid him to command that his Ship may be brought downe the Riuer: while she is comming about, you may giue notice to the Linnen Drapers of the commodities you haue comming. Enough wife (quoth he) thou hast said enough, and by the grace of God, Ile follow thy counsell, and I doubt not but to haue good fortune.

Chap. XI.

How *Simon Eyer* was sent for to my Lord Mayors to supper, and shewing the great entertainment he and his wife had there.

AFter supper time drew neere, the making her selfe ready in the best manner she could deuise, passed along with her husband vnto my Lord Mayors house: and being entred into the great Hall, one of the Officers there certified my Lord Mayor, that the great rich Shoomaker and his wife were already come. Whereupon the Lord Mayor in courteous manner came into the Hall to Simon, saying, You are most heartily welcome good Master Eyer, and so is your gentle bedfellow. Then came forth the Lady Mayoresse and saluted them both in like manner, saying: Welcome good Master Eyer and Mistresse Eyer both, and taking her by the hand, set her downe among the Gentlewomen there present.

Sir (quoth the Lord Mayor) I vnderstand you are a Shoomaker and that it is you that hath bought vp all the goods of the great Argosy. I am made my Lord of the Gentle craft, quoth he, and I praise God, all the goods of the great Argosy are mine owne, when my debts are payd.

God giue you much ioy of them, said the Lord Mayor, and I trust you and I shall deale for some part thereof. So the meat being then ready to be brought in, the guests were placed each one according to their calling. My Lord Mayor holding Simon by the hand, and the Lady Mayoresse holding his wife, they would needs haue them sit neere to themselues, which they then with blushing cheekes refusing, my Lord said vnto them, holding his cap in his hand.

Master Eyer and Mistresse Eyer, let me intreat you not to be troublesome, for I tell you it shall be thus: and as for those Gentlemen here present, they are all of mine old acquaintance, and many times we haue been together, therefore I dare be the bolder with them: and albeit you are our neighbours also, yet I promise you, you are strangers to my Table, and to strangers common courtesie doth teach vs to shew the greatest fauour, & therefore let me rule you in mine house, and you shall rule me in yours.

When Simon found there was no remedy, they sate them down, but the poore woman was so abashed, that she did eate but little meat at the Table, bearing her selfe at the table with a comely & modest countenance: but what she wanted in outward feeding, her heart yelded to, with inward delight and content.

Now

Now so it was, many men that knew not Simon, and seeing him in so simple attire sit next my Lord, whisperingly asked one another what he was. And it was enough for Simons wife with her eyes and eares, to see and hearken after every thing that was sayd or done.

A graue wealthy Citizen sitting at the Table, spake to Simon, and said, Sir, in good will I drinke to your good health, but I beseech you pardon me, for I know not how to call your name: with that my Lord Mayor answered him: saying, his name is Master Eyer, and this is the Gentleman that bought all the goods that came in the blacke Swanne of Candy, and before God, though he sit here in simple sort, for his wealth I doe verily beleeue hee is more sufficient to beare this place than my selfe. This was a man that was neuer thought vpon, liuing obscure amongst vs, of none account in the eyes of the world, carrying the countenance but of a Shoomaker, and none of the best sort neither, and is able to deale for a bargaine of fiue thousand pounds at a clap. We doe want many such Shoomakers (sayd the Citizen:) and so with other discourse drone out supper, at what time rising from the Table, Simon and his wife receiuing sundry salutations of my Lord Mayor and his Lady, and of all the rest of the worshipfull guests, departed home to their owne house: at what time his wife made such a recitall of the matters; how brauely they were entertained, what great cheare was there, also what a great company of Gentlemen and Gentlewomen were there, and how often they dranke to her husband and to her, with diuers other circumstances, that I beleeue, if the night had beene six moneths long, as it is vnder the North pole he would haue found talke enough till morning. Of a truth (quoth she) although I sate closely by my Ladies side, I could eate nothing for very ioy, to heare and see that we were so much made of. And neuer giue me credit husband, if I did not heare the Officers whisper as they stood behind me, and all demanded one of another, what you were, and what I was: O quoth one, doe you see this man? marke him well and marke his wife well, that simple woman that sits next my Lady: what are they? What are they quoth another? Marry this is the rich Shoomaker that bought all the goods in the great Argosie: I tell you there was neuer such a Shoomaker seene in London since the City was builded.

Now by my faith (quoth the third) I haue heard much of him to day among the Merchants in the street, going betweene the two Chaines: Credit me husband, of mine honesty this was

sweet

their communication. Nay, and doe you not remember when the rich Citizen dranke to you (which craued pardon, because he knew not your name) what my Lord Mayor said? Sir (quoth he) his name is Maister Eyer, did you marke that? and presently thereupon he added these words: This is the Gentleman that bought, and so forth. The Gentleman vnderstood you, did you heare him speake that word?

In troth wife (quoth he) my Lord vttered many good words of me, I thanke his honour, but I heard not that. No (quoth the) I heard it well enough: for by and by he proceeded further, saying: I suppose though he sit here in simple sort, he is more sufficient to beare this charge than my selfe. Yea, thought I, he may thanke his wife for that, if it come so to passe. Nay, said Simon, I thanke God for it. Yea, and nere him, you may thanke me (quoth she.) And it did her so much good to talke of it, that I suppose, if she had liued till this day, she would yet be prating thereof, and if Atropos did not driue her from it.

And now seeing that Simon the Shoomaker is become a Merchant, we will temper our tongues to giue him that title, which his customers were wont to doe, and from henceforth call him Maister Eyer, who while he had his affaires in hand, committed the gouernment of his shop to John the Frenchman, leauing him to be guide to his other seruants, by means of which fauour, John thought himselfe at that time to be a man of no small reputation.

Chap. XII.

How *Iohn* the French-man fell in loue with one of his Mistres Maides: and how he was crossed through the craft of *Haunce* the Dutch-man.

AT the same time there was dwelling in the house, a iolly lusty wench, whose name was Florence, whom John the Frenchman loued dearely well, and for her only sake he brought many a good bottle of wine into the house, and therewithall so soone as their Maister and Mistresse were gone to bed, they would oftentimes make merry amongst themselues; which Haunce a Iourneyman in the same house perceiuing, sought to crosse them as much as in him lay, thereby to bring his owne purpose the better to passe, which was to ioyne the Maidens fauour to his owne affection.

And because the Frenchman had greatest gaines vnder his Maister, & being thereof no niggard when he had got it, the maids

did

did most delight in him, a little esteemed the Dutchman, though his good will were as great towards her as the other: for they could not be in any corner of the house together, nor could they meete in any place abroad, but the Dutchman would still watch them.

Upon a time, Florence being at Market, her Loue Iohn went forth of the shop to meet her, and Haunce stayed not long behinde, who at length espied them, and heard his fellow Iohn questioning with her in this sort.

What Florence, what haue you in your basket? hea, let me see what you buy. Marry Iohn (quoth she) I haue bought Weese and Mutton, and other things. Come, come, must you peepe in my basket (quoth she) away for shame away. We got Florence, me will see a little: ha, ha! Florence, you buy the pudding, hea, you loue de puddings? Florence hea? Yea Sir (quoth she) what if I doe loue puddings? what care you? of my tra Florence, if I be your husband, me will giue you pudden shall warren. My husband (quoth she) in faith sir no, I meane not to marry a Frenchman. What Florence, de French man be de good man: but Florence, me will giue you a pinte of wine by my treat.

O, I cannot stay now, I thanke you Iohn. What (quoth he) Florence, no stay with your friend? I shall make you stay a little time: and so with that, taking her by the hand into the Tauerne they goe, and Haunce the Dutchman following them, and sate close in the next roome, & by that meanes he heard all that they said, and that they appointed the next Sunday to goe to Islington together, and there to be merry: and so the Mart hasting away, they departed.

Well (quoth Haunce secretly to himselfe) it shall goe hard but Ile disappoint you. Sunday in the afternoone being come, Iohn the Frenchman, according to appointment, went before to Islington, leauing Florence to come after, with another Maide, which dwelt in the same house, whilest he prepared good cheare for their comming: and the more to make her merry, he hired a noise of Musitians to attend their pleasure.

And as it after happened, his fellow Haunce preuented this sport, who watching in the fields for Florence, at length he spied her comming: to whom he said, Well met faire Florence, your friend Iohn hath changed his minde: for whereas he appointed you to meete him at Islington, you shall lose your labour so to doe, for he is not there. No? how so said Florence? The reason is this (said Haunce) So farre as I can vnderstand by him, he thinkes you are very fickle and inconstant; and because it

was

was his chance this morning, to see you speake to a young man that passed by, he saith verily, that you are a maruellous great dissembler: and in this humour he is gone I know not whither.

And is it euen so, said Florence? Ile tell thee what Haunce, because he hath made thee privy to his minde, I will shew thee somewhat of mine. Doth he suspect me because I did but speak to one? Nay, if he be so iealous now, what will he be hereafter? And therefore insomuch that it is so, let him goe to the Deuill, hee shall very well finde, that I will set as light by him, as he doth by me: Did the knaue get leaue of my Mistris for me to come abroad this day, and doth he now serue mee thus? Well, this shall teach me wit, in faith, and so she turnes backe againe.

Nay (quoth Haunce) seeing you are now abroad, let me intreat you to goe to Hogsdon, and I will bestow a messe of creame vpon you. In the end, she was won, and as they walked together, Haunce spake thus vnto her: I know not what cause Iohn the Frenchman hath giuen you, to beare him so good will, as I perceiue you doe, but in my mind, he is a far vnmeet match for you. And thus much I know, he is of a very mistrustfull nature, a wauering minde and deceitfull heart, he did professe great good will to you in outward shew, but I haue heard him speake most shamefully of you behind your back, making his vaunts, that he had you at a beck of his finger, and how that for a pinte of Wine, he could cause you to follow him vp and down ouer all the City. Florence, I am a fole to tell you thus much, it may be you will scarce beleeue it, and for my part, I will not vrge you thereunto: but in troth, looke what I tell you, it is for good will, because I haue beene sorry to see you abused.

I thanke you good Haunce (quoth she) I may beleeue it well enough: but from henceforth I know what I haue to doe: I confesse indeed, that I haue drunke with him abroad, but it was at his owne earnest entreaty, neither could I euer be quiet for the knaue, he doth so follow me vp and downe in euery place, but seeing I know his dissimulation to be such, if I doe not requite him in his kinde, trust mee noe more: and now I am heartily sorry that I was so foolish as to follow him this day at his appointment: but seeing he hath serued me thus, he shall not know of my comming out of doors, and therefore good Haunce, doe not tell him that you met me this day on the fields.

Nay in faith Florence (quoth he) I will not only be secret to thee,

but

but will also from henceforth acquaint thee with all my proceedings. And hauing eaten their creame, Haunce brought her some part of the way homeward: and taking his leaue of her, he went back to see if he could meet with John the Frenchman, who hauing stayed at Islington for Florence vntill almost night, and she not comming, he and the Musicians together were faine to eate vpp the meate, without more company, which caused John the Frenchman to sweare like a Turke.

And as he was comming homeward ouer the fields chafing and fretting to himselfe, who should he meete withall but Haunce the Dutchman, who said to him: What, John, who thought to meete you here? Here thou seest I am now, sayd John? but when came you from home? Marry but euen now (quoth Haunce,) And who is at home, said John? The other answered, there was no body but their Mistresse, and the Maid Florence, with the rest of the household: Is Florence at home, said John? The diuell take her for me, thee hath made a right fole of me indeed. How so, quoth Haunce? Then the other in a great chafe, said: By God shall be reuenged, Florence mock an me too much, too much she make me beleeue she loue me, an me tink so too, and by Cot she make me a Jack sole. When Haunce heard him say so, he said: Alas good John, she loue thee? If you think so, you are greatly deceiued: for she is the scoffingest queane in London: And I haue heard her behinde your backe, to mock and flout you, saying: Doth shitten John thinke that I will marry him? In faith sir no. When the Frenchman heard this, he stampt like a mad-man, and bit his thumb, saying: Mordue me shall be reuenged by God: shitten John? call a shitten John, hea? A deput in corroyname shant, shitten John, no better name but shitten John? It is as I tell you quoth Haunce: and moreouer, she sayd she scorned to come after you to Islington, saying, she would see you hanged first. Well be no matre, she no loue me, me no loue she, but me shall goe home, me shall, and beat as a stockfish. Nay, doe not so, said Haunce, but let her alone: for it is no credit for you to beat a woman: and besides that, if you should, our Master would turne you out of doores; therefore be quiet a while, and be secret in that I haue told you, then shal you see how she vseth you.

In this humour they departed: at what time, John full of melancholy, stood frowning by the fire-side: and as the Maid went vp and downe the house about her businesse, he cast lookes on her, as fierce as a Panther; but she, by reason of the Dutchmans tale to her, shewes her selfe as scornefull as he was currish, and

not once cast her eye towards him, and thus they drove out the time of a sennight or a fortnight.

Chap. XIIII.

How Master *Eyer* was called upon to be Sheriffe of *London*, and how he held his place with worship.

In this space Master Eyer following his business, had sold so much of his Merchandize as paid the Grecian his whole money: and yet had resting to himselfe three times as much as he had sold, whereof he trusted some to one Alderman, and some to another, and a great deale amongst substantiall Merchants; and for some had much ready money, which he imployed in diuers Merchandizes: and became Aduenturer at Sea, hauing (by Gods blessing) many a prosperous voyage, whereby his riches daily increased.

It chanced vpon a time, that being in his study, casting vp his accounts, he found himselfe to be clearely worth twelue or thirteen thousand pounds, which he finding to be so, he called his wife to him, and said:

The last day I did cast vp my accounts, and I find that Almighty God of his goodnesse hath lent mee thirteene thousand pounds to maintaine vs in our old age, for which his gracious goodnesse towards vs, let vs with our whole hearts giue his glorious Maiesty eternall praise, and therewithal pray vnto him, that we may so dispose thereof, as may be to his honour, and the comfort of his poore members on earth, and aboue our neighbours may not be puffed vp with pride, that while we thinke on our wealth, we forget God that sent it vs, for it hath beene an old saying of a wise man, that abundance groweth from riches, and disdaine out of abundance: of which God giue vs grace to take heed, and grant vs a contented minde.

So soone as he had spoken this, they heard one knocking hastily at doore; whereupon hee sent Florence to see who it was, the Mayden comming againe, told her Master it was one of my Lord Mayors Officers that would speake with him. The Officer being permitted to come in, after due reuerence, he said, Sir, it hath pleased my Lord Mayor, with the worshipfull Aldermen his brethren, with the counsell of the whole communalty of the honourable City, to chuse your worship Shirriffe of London this day, and haue sent me to desire you to

come

come and certifie your minde therein, whether you be contented to hold the place or no.

Maister Eyer hearing this, answered he would come to his Honour and their Worships incontinent, and resolue them what hee was minded to doe; and so the Officer departed.

His wife, which all this while listned vnto their talke, hearing how the case stood, with a ioyfull countenance meeting her husband, taking him about the necke with a louing kisse, sayd, Maister Sheriffe, God giue thee ioy of thy name and place. O wife (quoth he) my person is farre vnworthy of that place, and the name farre exceedes my degree.

What, content your selfe good husband (quoth she) and disable not your selfe in such sort, but be thankfull vnto God for that you haue, and doe not spurne at such promotion as God sendeth vnto you: the Lord be prayed for it, you enough to discharge the place whereto you are called with credit: and wherefore lendeth God goods, but therewithall to doe him and your Countrey seruice? Woman (quoth he) it is an old prouerbe, Soft fire makes sweete mault: For such as take things in hand rashly, repent as suddenly: to be Sheriffe of London is no little cost. Consider first (quoth he) what house I ought to haue, and what costly ornaments belong thereunto, as hanging of Tapistry, cloth of Arras, and other such like, what store of Plate and Goblets of Gold, what costly attire, and what a chargeable traine, and that which is most of all, how greatly I stand charged beside to our Soueraigne Lord the King, for the answering of such prisoners as shall be committed to my custody, with an hundred matters of such importance, which are to such an Office belonging.

God Lord Husband (quoth she) what néede all these repetitions? You néede not tell me it is a matter of great charge: notwithstanding I verily thinke many heretofore haue with great credit discharged the place, whose wealth hath not in any sort béene answerable to your riches, and whose wits haue beene as meane as your owne: truely Sir shal I be plaine? I know not any thing that is to be spoken of, that you want to performe it, but onely your good will: and to lack good will to doe your King and Countrey good, were a signe of an vnworthy subiect, which I hope you will neuer be.

Well wife (said her husband) thou doest hold me here with prittle prattle, whyle the time passeth on, 'tis high time I were gone to Guild-Hall, I doubt I shall appeare to vnmannerly in causing my Lord Mayor, and the rest to stay my leisure.

And he hauing made himselfe ready, meet to goe before such an assembly as he went vnto, hee went out of doores, at what time his wife called after him, saying: and holding vp her finger.

Husband, remember, you know what I haue said: take heede you dissemble not with God and the world, looke to it Husband: Goe to, goe to, get you in quoth he, about your businesse, and so away he went.

So soone as he was gone out of sight, his wife sent one of his men after him to Guild Hall to hearken and heare, whether her Husband held his place or no: and if he doe, bring me word with all possible speed.

I will Mistresse quoth her man.

Now when Maister Eyer came to Guild Hall, the Lord Mayor and his brethren bad him heartily welcome, saying: Sir, the communalty of the City hauing a good opinion of you, haue chosen you for one of our Sheriffes for this yeare, not doubting but to finde you a fit man for the place.

My good Lord quoth he, I humbly thank the City for their courtesie and kindnesse, and would to God my wealth were answerable to my good will, and my ability were able to beare it. But I find my selfe insufficient; I most humbly desire a yeares respite more, and pardon for this present.

At these words, a graue Commoner of the City standing vp, with due reuerence spake thus vnto the Mayor: My good Lord, this is but a slender excuse for Maister Eyer to make; for I haue often heard him say, and so haue diuers others also, that he hath a Table in his house, whereon hee breakes his fast euery day, that hee will not giue for a thousand pounds: Wherefore (vnder your Lordships correction) in my simple iudgement, I thinke hee that is able to spare a thousand pounds in such a dead commodity, is very sufficient to be Sheriffe of London. See you now, quoth my Lord, I muse Maister Eyer, that you will haue so lame an excuse before vs, as to take exceptions at your owne wealth, which is apparantly proued sufficient; you must know Maister Eyer, that the Commons of London haue searching eyes, and seldome are they deceiued in their opinion, and therefore looke what is done, you must stand to it.

I beseech you my Lord (quoth Maister Eyer) giue me leaue to speak one word. Let it be granted, that I will not giue my Table whereon I breake my fast for a thousand pounds, that is no consequence to proue it is worthy so much, my fancy to the thing

is all: for doubtlesse no man here would giue me a thousand shillings for it when they see it. All is one for that, quoth my Lord Mayor, yet dare I giue you as much wine as you will spend this yeare in your Shriualry to let me haue it: my good Lord quoth he, on that condition I will hold my place, and rest no longer troublesome to this company. You must hold, said my Lord, without any condition or exceptions at all in this matter: and so they ended.

The Assembly being thus broken vp, the voyce went Master Eyer is Sheriffe, Master Eyer is Sheriffe. Whereupon the fellow that Mistris Eyer sent to obserue how things framed, ranne home in all haste, and with leaping and reioycing said: Mistris, God giue you ioy, for you are now a Gentlewoman. What, quoth shee, tell me sir sawce, is thy Master Sheriffe, or no? and doth hee hold his place? Yes Mistrisse, he holds it now as fast as the stirrop doth the shooe while wee sold it; Why then (quoth she) I haue my hearts desire and that I so long loked for, and so away she went.

Within a while after came her husband, and with him one of the Aldermen, and a couple of wealthy Commoners, one of them was he that gaue such great commendations of his Table, and comming to his doore, he said, You are welcome home good Master Sheriffe. Nay, I pray you, come in and drinke with me before you goe.

Then said he, Wife bring me forth the Pastie of Venison, and set me here my little Table that these Gentlemen may eat a bit with me before they goe. His wife which had beene oft vsed to this terme, excused the matter, saying; The little Table! good Lord husband, I doe wonder what you will doe with the little Table now, knowing that it is vsed already? I pray you good Husband, content your selfe, and sit at this great Table hence. Then she whispered him in the eare, saying: What man, shall we shame our selues? What shame? (quoth he) tell not me of shame, but doe thou as thou art bidden; for we are three or foure of vs, then what we doe troubling the great Table? Truely (answered she) the little Table is not ready: now good Husband let it alone.

Truth me we are troublesome guests (said the Alderman) but yet we would faine see your little table, because it is said to be of such prize. Yea, and it is my mind you shall, quoth Master Eyer; therefore he called his wife againe, saying: Good wife, dispatch and prepare the little table: for these Gentlemen would faine haue a view of it.

Whereupon his wife seeing him so earnest, according to her wonted manner, came in: and setting her selfe downe on a low stoole, laid a faire Napkin ouer her knees, and set the platter with the pastie of Venison thereupon, and presently a chaire was brought for Master Alderman, and a couple of stooles for the two Commoners, which they beholding, with a sudden and hearty laughter, said; Why Master Sheriffe, is this the table you held so deare? Yes truely, quoth he; Now verily, quoth they, you herein haue vtterly deceiued our expectation. Euen so did you mine, quoth he, in making me Sheriffe: but you are all right welcome, and I will tell you true, had I not thought wondrous well of you, you had not seene my table now. And I thinke, did my Lord Mayor see it as you doe, he would repent his bargaine so hastily made. Notwithstanding I account of my table neuer the worse. Nor haue you any cause (quoth they) and so after much pleasant talke, they departed, spreading the fame of Master Sheriffes little table ouer the whole City.

But you must now imagine, that a thousand cares combred the Sheriffe, in prouiding all things necessary for his office: at what time he put off his Shoomakers shop to one of his men, and set vp at the same time the signe of the Blacke Swanne swimming vpon the Sea, in remembrance of that ship, that first did bring him his wealth, and before that time the signe of the Black Swanne was neuer seene or known in any place in or about the City of London.

Chap. XIII.

How *Haunce* having circumvented *Iohn* the Frenchmans Love, was by him and others finely deceived at the Garden.

NOw at that time John the Frenchman, and faire Florence were both at variance, as you heard before, by the Dutchmans dealing. by which subtilty he sought meanes to win fauour for himselfe. which John the Frenchman perceiued, and therefore went about not onely to preuent him, but to take reuenge on him for his deceitfulnesse. And meeting Florence as she went into the Garden for flowers, he began to talke thus vnto her.

What Florence, you goe to the Garden? And how then,

quoth she, what haue you to say to that? Neuer nothing, but you bee discontent; you no speake a mee, you no [illegible] a me, nor you no drinke with mee, nor noting, ah Florence, how chance dat?

Goe get thee hence, prating foole, quoth shee, I drinke with thee? thou shalt be pie-pecke first. Pie-pecke? What be pie-pecke a hea? Be got Florence, you make me a Jacke nape, you mocke a me, and call me shitten Jan, and you be so proud, because Haunce loue you, dat shall be maruell: but and if you call me shitten John any more, par ma foy shall not put vp, shal not take at your hands. Who told you, that I called you shitten John, quoth Florence, I neuer called you so. No Florence! you no call a me shitten John? a so mechant villain pulard Haunce tell a me so: I neuer said so, quoth Florence. But Haunce told me that you made your boast that I was at a becke of your finger; and that you could make mee follow you vp and downe the whole City for a pinte of Wine; no, I would you should well vnderstand, I will not follow a better man than you. Of me let Florence, me neuer tea so. No-yes, quoth she, but you did, I can tell you by a good token, for that very time that I should haue met you at Islington, you said it, and made me a foole to come ouer the fields to you, and when all came to all, you sent Haunce to tell me you were gone there hence long agone.

Ahert toking Haunce quoth John, be dessen bon, 'tis true, for me tarry dere more den one, two, tre houre, and had prouide shapon de rabit, de creame, de puding-pie, and twenty ding more. Well howsoeuer it was, I am sure I was made an asse betwixt you and for that cause I will beware how I shew kindnesse againe to any: therefore John I pray you be gone, and seeke some other company, for you shall not goe with me: No sayd John? Well den, adieu Florence, and so they parted.

Now it is to be vnderstood, that Haunce had promised Florence to meete her in the Garden, and to bring with him a bottle of Wine, and there in the presence of a Mayde or two more, to make themselues sure together: and she for that purpose, had carried with her a good corner of a venison pastie. But there was an English Journey-man in the house cald Nicholas that vnderstood thereof, who meeting with John the Frenchman, he made him priuie thereunto saying; Truste me John, if thou wilt be ruled by me, we will not onely disapoint this match, but also with their good cheare make our selues merry. John, who was glad and ready to doe the the Duchmen any iniury, consented to follow Nicholas his counsell in any thing.

Then

Then, quoth Nicholas, it shall be thus: I will goe to the Garden, and stay for Haunce his comming with the wine, and in the meane space doe thou hide thy selfe vnder one of the hedges of the Garden on the other side, and with thee take a couple of pots, and let the one be empty, and the other filled with water, and when Haunce is come into the Garden with his bottle of wine (now he will not let me see it by his good will, notwithstanding) Ile obserue well where hee doth set it downe, and then I will finde the meanes, while they are busie in toying and talking, to conuey the bottle of wine through the hedge to thee, and likewise the Venison: then emptying the bottle, thou shalt fill it with water, and thrusting it through the hedge again, it shall be set where first it was found, which being done, thou shalt hastily rap at the Garden doore, at what time they shal be told that it is my Master or Mistris, which they hearing will be in such a maze, that on a sudden they will not know which way to turne themselues, especially for the conueying away of Haunce: Now when you haue knockt twice or thrice, and that you heare no body come to the doore, get you away, and stay for me at the Rose in Barking, and there we will drinke vp their wine, eate vp the Venison: and this being done, wee'le laugh them to scorne.

Truely Nicholas, quoth John the Frenchman, this will be braue, and thereupon they prepared themselues to doe the feat. Nicholas therefore got him into the Garden, and by and by after comes Haunce with the bottle of Wine, who knocking at the Garden doore was straight let in: but seeing Nicholas there, hee secretly set his bottle in a corner: but Nicke, who had as searching eyes as Argus in his buttocke, quickly did as before hee had determined, and in stead of wine set the bottle downe againe, where he first found it full of water.

Then comes John, and luckily knockt at the doore. There is our Master and Mistris (quoth Nicholas.) Alas quoth Florence, what shall wee doe for Haunce? then rapt hee at the doore againe; Alas, quoth shee, get you ouer the hedge. shall I open the doore, quoth Nicke? O no said Florence, not yet good Nicke. With that he knockt more hastily. Anon, anon, quoth she. Hence Haunce: Goe to the doore Nicke. Who is there, quoth he? And with that opening the doore found iust no body. Truely Florence, said he, they are gone whosoeuer they were. God be with you, I can stay no longer.

When he was departed, the Maides wished that Haunce had

cause him to be disguised, that he shall neither be able to stand nor goe; and while he lies parbreaking his mind, Ile goe and marry the Maide. The Frenchman hearing this, scratcht his head, and rubbing his elbow, said, Ma foy, Nicholas, dis be de fine trick: how shal we get him forth a doores? Excellent wel, quoth Nicholas, for there is a new Journey-man come to Towne with Sir Hughes bones at his back, and you know, that we being of the Gentle Craft, must goe giue him his welcome, and I wil tel Haunce thereof, who being now very iocund, by reason that his marriage is so neere, will not deny to come, I know. Therefore you and the stranger Journey-man shall goe before to the Tauerne, and then I wil goe fetch him. Abeene, content, content said John.

And so to the Tauerne he hasted with the strange man. Anon comes Nicholas and Haunce, and with them two or three Journey-men more, and all to the new Journey-man: sitting down, they got Haunce in the midst, called for wine lustily, and such varieties, as the Dutchman was soone set packing; for euery one sought to ouer-charge him, and being himselfe of a good kinde to take his liquor, spared not to pledge euery man. At what time in the midst of his cups, being well whitled, his tongue ran at randome (as wine is the bewrayer of secrets) so it proued by him, for there he opened to his companions al his whole mind, saying, My hearts, for all I sit here, I must be a married man ere morning. God giue you ioy (quoth they) but who shall you marry, said Nicke, Florence? Yea, Florence, sayd the Dutchman, that is the Masse that I doe loue, and all the world cannot deceiue me of her now, I am the man that must haue her Maiden-head, and this night we must be married at the Abbey of Grace; and if you be good fellowes, goe with me to Church; will you goe with me? Will we ged with thee? (said John Frenchman) that we will. O John (said Haunce) I haue wiped your nose, and Nickes too, you must weare the willow Garland. Well, what remedy (quoth they) it is the better for you: but in faith Haunce, seeing it is so (quoth Nicke) weele haue one pottle of wine more, that we may drinke to the health of your faire Bride. Ile pledge her if it bee a gallon (quoth Haunce.) Be my fet and trot, said John, weele haue a gallon. Hea Drawer, where be you? I pray you bring me a gallon of de best Claret, and a gallon of de best Seck, shal make merry I fet: what Florence be merry and I no know? But by the time this wine was drunke, Haunce was layd vp, for spalking any more that night. When Nicke perceiued that, he stole suddenly out of the Tauerne, and went to meete Florence at the appointed place: but John quickly missing him, knew straight whereabout

he went, got him presently to the Constable of the Postern Gate and told him, that Nicke had layd a man for dead in Lower Street, and that he was gone to saue himselfe vnder the priuiledge of the Abbey of Grace; but (quoth he) if you will goe along, I shall bring him out with faire words vnto you, and then I desire you to clap him vp to answer this matter in the morning. But where dwell you, said the Constable? I doe dwell with Master Alderman Eyer (quoth Iohn) and there you shall haue me at all times. The Constable did as Iohn bade him, and committed Nicholas to prison. In the meane space, Florence, and an old woman of Lower-street said that they did goe to a womans labour, and by that meanes they passed along by the Watch, and to the Abbey of Grace they came. They had not long been there, but that Iohn Frenchman meeting them, said; Florence, well met, here is a fit place to finish that I haue long looked for: Iohn (quoth she) thou art like an euill spirit that must be coniured out before a body shall get any quietnesse, vrge not me vpon any such matters, for you be not the man I looke for, and therefore, as taking little pleasure in your presence, as of your proffers, I would be very glad to see your back. What, said Iohn, haue you no compassion vpon a poore man? you be hard-hearted indeed. But as he was vttering these speeches, it was his wifes chance to heare his tongue, being newly come from the Barge at Billingsgate, and at that time going towards Saint Katharines, to see if she could meet with some of her Country folkes, that could tell her any tydings of her husband; but as I said, hearing his tongue, and knowing him by his speech, she said, What, Iohn Denevale? my husband Iohn Denevale? What make you wed pretty wence hee? At which words Iohn was stricken into such a dumpe, that he wist not what to say: not withstanding, hearing Florence to aske if she was his wife, he answered & said, Yea. O thou dissembling fellow, quoth she, is it euen so? Didst thou say thou wast a Batcheller, seeking to marry me, & hast a wife aliue? now fie on thee: O good Lord, how was I blest to escape him? nay, now I see, that Haunce may haue a wife in Flaunders too, although he be here: and therefore by the grace of God, I will not marry a stranger. O (quoth Iohn) I thought my wife had been dead, but seeing she is aliue, I will not lose her for twenty thousand crowns. So Florence departed, and left Iohn with his wife.

Now, Haunce neuer waking vntill it was next day at noone; when he saw he had ouerslept himselfe, being very sorry, hee went home, not knowing how to excuse his folly to Florence; whom he now vtterly forsooke, as well in regard of his drunkennes

kennes, as for that being a stranger, he might like John Frenchman haue another wife liuing. But Nicholas (that all this whyle lay in prison) being brought before Alderman Eyer, rehearsed the truth, and crauing pardon for his offence, was without more adoe deliuered. And Florence being called before him, he made vp the match betweene her and his man Nicholas, marrying them out of his house with credit, giuing them a good stocke to begin the world withall: also for John Frenchman he did very much, and shewed himselfe a good Master to his men Haunce, and to all the rest of his seruants.

CHAP. XVI.

How Master Alderman *Eyer* was chosen Lord Mayor of London and how he feasted all the Prentises on Shrove-tuesday.

WIthin a few yeares after, Alderman Eyer being chosen Lord Mayor of London, changing his copye, he became one of the Worshipfull Company of Drapers, and for this yeare hee kept a most bountifull house. At this time it came into his mind what a promise once he made to the Prentises, being at breakfast with them at their going to the Conduit speaking to his Lady in this wise. God Lord (quoth he) what a chance haue wee had within these thirty yeares? And how greatly hath the Lord blessed vs since that? blessed be his Name for it.

I doe remember, when I was a young Prentise, what a match I made vpon a Shroue-tuesday morning, being at the Conduit, among other of my companions; trust mee wife (quoth he) 'tis worth the hearing, and Ile tell thee how it fell out.

After we had filled our Tankards with water, there was some would needs haue me set down my Tankard, and goe with them to breakfast (as many times before I had done) to which I consented: and it was a breakfast of Pudding-pies. I shall neuer forget it: But to make short, when the shot came to be payd, each one drewout his money, but I had not one penny in my purse, and credit I had none in the place; which when I beheld, being abashed, I said; Well my Masters, doe you giue me my breakfast this time; and in requitall thereof, if euer I be Mayor of London, Ile bestow a breakfast on all the Prentises of

the City: these were the words, little thinking (God wot) that euer it should come to passe: but such was the great goodnesse of our God, who setteth vp the humble, and pulleth down the proud, to bring whom he pleaseth to the seat of Honour. For as the Scripture witnesseth, Promotion commeth neither from the East nor from the West, but from him that is the giver of all good things, the mighty Lord of Heaven and Earth: Wherefore wife, seeing God hath bestowed that vpon me that I neuer looked for; it is reason that I should performe my promise: and being able now, Ile pay that which then I was not able to doe: for I would not haue men say that I am like the Eben tree, that neither beares leaues nor fruit. Wherefore wife, seeing that Shroue-tuesday is so neare at hand, I will vpon that day fulfill my promise: which vpon that day I made. Truely (my Lord) qd she, I wil be right willing thereunto. Then answered my Lord, as thou dost loue me, let them lacke neither Pudding-pies nor Pancakes, and loke what other good cheare is to bee had, I will referre all to your discretion. Hereupon great prouision was made for the Prentises breakefast: and Shroue-tuesday being come, the Lord Mayor sent word to the Aldermen, that in their seuerall Wards they should signifie his minde to the Citizens, to craue their fauors that their Prentises might come to his house to breakfast, and that for his sake they might play all the day after.

Hereupon it was ordered, that at the ringing of a Bell in euery Parish, the Prentises should leaue worke and shut vp their shops for that day, which being euer since yerely obserued, it is called the Pancake bell. The Prentises being all assembled, my Lord Mayors house was not able to hold them, they were such a multitude: so that besides the great Hall, all the gardens were set with Tables, and in the backside Tables were set, and euery other spare place was also furnished: so that at length the Prentises were all placed, and while meat was bringing in, to delight their eares, as well as to feede their bodies, and to drown the noise of their prattlings, Drums and Trumpets were pleasantly sounded: that being ended, the Waits of the City, with diuers other sorts of musicke played also to beguile the time, and to put off all discontent.

After the first seruice, were all the Tables plentifully furnished with Pudding-pies and Pancakes, in very plentifull manner; and the rest that remained was giuen to the poore. Wine and Ale in very great measure they had giuen, insomuch that they had no lack, nor neede to cause them to be disordered. And

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bane there againe. Alas poore fellow (quoth they) is he gone, and left his bottle behind him? Marry I am glad that it is no worse, quoth Florence: And now, that the wine is here, we will drinke it for his sake, and I haue here a morsell of Venison, that will giue it a good relish: and therewithall looking to it, she found the cloake, but the meat gone. Now a vengeance on it, quoth the one shrurup cur or other hath got into the Garden, and tooke away the meate.

O God, what ill luck is that (quoth the Maide!) a murren on that cur that got it: but seeing it is gone, farewell it. Well, said Florence, here is the wine yet, I know it is excellent good: for he told me he would bring a bottle of the best Renish wine that could be bought in London: and I am certaine he is as good as his word. But beleeue me Ioane, he is as kind-hearted, and as louing a fellow as euer professed loue to any: I assure you, that here is a cup of Wine that the King might drinke thereof: but how shall we doe for a glasse? Wele drink it out of the bottle, said Ioane. Not so (quoth Florence) I doe loue to see what I drink, and therefore Ile borrow a glasse, at the next house. And while she goes for a glasse, said Ioane to her selfe, Ile haue a taste of it before she returnes againe: and then setting her hand vnto the bottle, and the bottle to her mouth, she dranke a good draught, and finding it to be something thin in the going down, she said to Besse that sate by: Credit me now, but for the name of Wine, I haue drunk as good water. It is Renish Wine (quoth Besse) and that is neuer strong. It may be made of raine well enough, quoth Ioane. At which words Florence entred with a glasse: and powring it out into the glasse, she extolled the colour, saying: See what a braue colour it hath, it is as cleare, I doe assure you, as rock-water: and therewithall drinking it off, she said, it drinks very dead: Of a troth (quoth she) this is but bad Wine, it is euen as dead as a doore nayle: and so filling the glasse againe, she gaue it vnto Besse: she tasting thereof, said: Passion of me, this is plaine water. Water, said Ioane? is it water? let me taste of it once again: by my Mayden-head it is water indeed (quoth she) Water, said Florence, verily you haue played the drabs in drinking out the Wine, and filling the bottle againe with water. Of my faith (quoth Ioane) you say not true in so saying: I would you did vnderstand, we played not the drabs in any such sort, but Haunce rather plaid the knaue, that brought vs water in stead of Wine. May I (quoth Florence) I dare sweare for him that he would not serue you so for all the wealth my Master is worth. And I am perswaded it was no body but your selues that did it: but in faith

you might haue dealt so with another, and not with me. Nay then (quoth they) you need not to serue vs so, to cause vs drink water in stead of Wine: and we would you should think, although you be Master Sheriffes Maide, we loue our mouthes as well as you doe yours for your life, and it was but an homely recompence for our good will, I tell you true: neither doe we care how little we come to be thus deluded. Goe to, goe to, said Florence, you are like to Penelope's puppy, that doth both bite and whine, I know you well enough. Know vs (quoth Joane) What doe you know by vs? we defie you for any thing you can say by vs. Know vs? Nay, it were well if thou didst know thy selfe; and hearest thou? though thou hast thy companions to meet thee at thy pleasure, and we haue not: no, know vs? we are knowne to be as honest as thou art, or else we should be sorry; and so she departed in a chafe.

Now John the Frenchman and Nicholas hauing eaten the Venison, and drunk vp the Wine, came back again time enough to heare all this strife, whereat they greatly reioyced. But so soone as Florence did meet with Haunce again, she kept no small stir for mocking her with a bottle of water: about the which they fell at variance, in such sort that they were not friends for a long time after.

But during the time that Haunce was out of fauour, Nicholas sought the Maides friendship by all the meanes he might, but in vaine was his paines spent therein: for although Florence (outwardly) seemed much displeased, yet Haunce had her heart still, and in processe of time obtained great fauour: the matter was growne so forward, that the performance of their marriage was forthwith appointed, which they intended should be celebrated at the Abbey of Grace on Mower hill. Notwithstanding, this matter was not kept so close, but that their secret dealings were known, and Nicholas purposing to deceiue the Dutchman, made John the Frenchman priuy thereunto, saying: John, it is so, that this night at midnight Masse, Florence and Haunce doe intend secretly to be married, and they haue appointed the Frier to doe it so soon as the Tapers are all put out, because they will not be seene of any: Therefore John, if thou wilt be my friend, I doe not doubt but to marry her my selfe, and so to giue the Dutchman the slampam, & boze him through the nose with a cush'n. Ha (quoth John) be Got me shall doe as you sea, and therefore Nicholas tell a me what you doe. Marry John quoth he, you know the Dutchman loueth to drinke well, and by that he loueth well cause him to lose his Way; for we will get him out to the Tauerne, and there

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in the middeſt of this their merriment, the Lord Mayor in his Scarlet gown, and his Lady in like manner went in amongſt them, bidding them al moſt heartily welcome, ſaying vnto them, that his promiſe ſo long agoe made, he hath at length performed. At what time they (in token of thankfulneſſe) flung vp their Caps, giuing a great ſhout, and incontinently they all quietly departed.

Then after this, Sir Simon Eyer builded Leaden-Hall, appointing that in the middeſt thereof, there ſhould be a Market place kept euery Monday for Leather, where the Shomakers of London, for their more eaſe, might buy of the Tanners, without ſeeking any further. And in the end, this worthy man ended his life in London with great Honour.

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FINIS.